

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

**RARE AND SCARCE
BIRDS REPORT
1998-1999**



Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

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YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

RARE AND SCARCE BIRDS REPORT

1998-1999

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INTRODUCTION

This report is the outcome of a number of changes made by the YNU Reports Committee. Previously the Committee has tried to produce a complete and accurate annual report of all species occurring in the county. This inevitably led to a considerable delay in order that all the relevant records could be collected from the published reports from local clubs and societies, some of which were several years late. The detailed 1996 Report was finally published in October 2000. The editor, Bill Curtis, retired after completing that report, and the new editor, who joined the Committee in January 1998, has wanted to bring the reports up-to-date as quickly as possible. A full Report for 1997 will be completed by summer 2001.

The present report, however, deals with records of as many rare and scarce species as could reasonably be collected in the time available, with the intention of completing a form of catch-up. It is the intention of the Reports Committee to produce an annual report in this format, with increasing use of maps and graphs, and the incorporation of colour photographs. It is also our intention to ensure that the report is as accurate as possible, and published within twelve months of the preceding year. This first attempt is not yet at the standard we would hope, as there have been two years of records to deal with, and some observers were not expecting to have to submit records so promptly. The Committee (and BBRC) did not receive a number of records until October 2000 and this has caused further delays awaiting decisions. If accepted by BBRC, these records will be published in the 2000 Report. Hopefully this situation will now improve.

The species included in this report are either BBRC or YNU description species, scarce migrants as published in the now annual *British Birds* report, or species included in *Rare and Scarce Birds in Yorkshire* by Andrew Wilson and Russell Slack, 1996. It is hoped that this and future reports will form the basis for updating that book. Work is currently being carried out to produce accurate species totals for Yorkshire that correlate with records accepted by BBRC, and it is hoped to include these in the next report.

Species that are only rare inland have not been included, but will be specifically mentioned in a proposed 5-year report of Yorkshire's more common birds (see below). Similarly records of forms such as Pale-bellied Brent Goose and Blue-headed Wagtail will be treated with their commoner relatives in that report. The species included in the YNU's annual Rare and Scarce Bird Report will be regularly reviewed in the light of changes in species' status. The inclusion of Yellow-legged, Iceland and Glaucous Gulls presented the greatest difficulties and some inland records not yet published may have been omitted. Yellow-legged Gull is becoming increasingly common, and its inclusion here is partly to try to establish its current status. The publication of individual records of all three species is probably not achievable within the time frame set for annual publication of future

reports. Inclusion of escapes will no doubt raise comment but perhaps puts the status of some other species with national feral populations into perspective. Suggestions about the list are welcome.

A record will only be published if the Committee is satisfied that the species was correctly identified. There is a national system of verification that the YNU adheres to: - namely the submission of descriptions of designated species to the BBRC. Records of these species will only be published if the BBRC has accepted the record. The YNU also has a list of species requiring descriptions that it regularly reviews. We would urge all observers to practise good fieldcraft, and make descriptions of these species for submission, either directly to the YNU or via observatory or local club records panels. The standards set by the Filey Brigg Ornithological Group in this respect are exemplary, but by no means unique, and the YNU would like to see similar high standards applied to other coastal "hot-spots". Many observers, including some very experienced ones, have been extremely thorough and co-operative in providing descriptions. Others have sometimes expected that their records will be accepted based on observer reputation alone, or in the belief that the species is now locally too common to be worth describing. This is particularly true for some scarce but regular seabirds such as Cory's and Balearic Shearwaters, and migrants such as Pallas's Warbler, but this is not satisfactory when keeping the County archive. We hope that, having made our intentions to adhere to these standards and expectations, that observers in 2001 will accept the self-discipline of providing descriptions of those species listed on page 91.

It is to be hoped that local society recorders will be able to forward all records received of species included in this report to their Vice-County Recorder as soon as possible after the end of the year.

What about the species not included in this report? The majority of breeding species, winter visitors and common passage migrants has not been included. The data for these species has often been either very incomplete or difficult to access. Much of the most useful and accurate data is held in surveys or habitat/area counts, such as Upland Bird Breeding Surveys, Garden Bird surveys and WeBS counts, and this has often not been available. The Committee feels that it will take longer to collect and analyse this data, and that a longer period of time between reports, allowing trends to be identified, would be more useful. It is hoped that with the assistance of local report editors, and Jeff Lunn from English Nature, who has offered to help in accessing national data sets, a regular report can be produced for the commoner species at five-year intervals. The first period would therefore be 1998-2002, and would show the status of Yorkshire's birds at the turn of the Millennium. Volunteers are wanted to write species accounts for that report, and anyone interested should contact Jim Pewtress (VC 64 Recorder) at the address given earlier. Jim is leading the editorial team for that report.

CALENDAR 1998

January

The year began with generally mild weather and south-westerly winds, including a storm on 3rd/4th. 2 Ring-necked Ducks remained in West Yorkshire from 1996 and 7 Bitterns and 3 Rough-legged Buzzards over-wintered in the county. A Grey Phalarope showed well on Hellifield Flash for 11 days mid-month, and a Great Grey Shrike was found wintering on the North York Moors. A Red-breasted Goose put in a brief appearance at Tophill Low. 4 Red-necked Grebes in Filey Bay increased to 6 after strong north-westerlies on 20th, joined by 2 Slavonian Grebes and a Grey Phalarope.

February

Exceptionally mild weather prevailed for most of February, but few of the early migrants noted further south reached the county. The Red-breasted Goose of debatable origin re-appeared at Nosterfield NR towards the end of the month.

March

A series of Atlantic depressions brought unsettled and wet weather this month, with once again exceptionally mild weather for the time of year towards the end of the month. An early Balearic Shearwater passed Flamborough Head on 21st and a Little Auk on the 22nd. A Horned Lark inland at Grimwith Res remained from 21st March to 9th April. Rough-legged Buzzards were reported from Barden Fell on 5th, Sleddale (2) on 27th and Barnside Moor on 15th, while the first Ospreys appeared on 27th March.

April

Many parts of England suffered the wettest April for 100 years, and Yorkshire was no exception. The month started with mild temperatures, and an early migrant was a Desert Wheatear at Flamborough on 5th/6th, but it soon turned both cold and wet, with northerlies predominating. Easterlies on 15th brought Filey's first White Stork, part of the largest national influx of this species since records began in 1958, although local escapes clouded the position in the county. A small influx of Great Grey Shrikes also occurred in mid-month. From the 19th the winds moved to the south and some visitors from that quarter managed to push through, including a number of Ospreys, and from a less certain vector, a Richard's Pipit at Flamborough from 30th April to 3rd May. Inland, a Blue-winged Teal was found at Potteric Carr on 28th.

May

May was settled and dry, with several periods of easterlies. North-easterlies at the beginning of the month brought a Wryneck to Spurn on 3rd, a Greater Short-toed Lark to Flamborough on 4th, 2 Spoonbills over Filey on 4th and 2 Richard's Pipits at Spurn on 9th, where they were accompanied by Nightingale and Golden Oriole. The highlight was the county's second Little Swift at Boulby Cliffs on 10th that unfortunately made only a brief appearance. The following few days saw the influx of drift migrants on the coast continuing, with the first of 35 spring Red-backed Shrikes noted on 11th, another Greater Short-toed Lark, this

time at Spurn on 11th, and a Subalpine Warbler at Spurn and a Common Rosefinch at Flamborough, both on 12th-13th. A Bluethroat was at South Gare, a Red-breasted Flycatcher at East Newton on 13th and Wrynecks at Boulby on 16th and Flamborough on 20th.

Wildfowl returning north included a drake Green-winged Teal at Astley Lake from 11th-14th, whilst drake Ring-necked Ducks put in appearances at Fairburn and Wheldrake. Rough-legged Buzzards passed through Spurn on 3rd and 24th, and parties of Eurasian Dotterel were noted from 8th-10th.

Towards the end of the month, north-easterlies from 26th brought another flurry of activity to the coast, with a fall of Icterine Warblers, a singing Barred Warbler and a Rustic Bunting at Flamborough on 30th, a supporting cast of Red-backed Shrikes, Marsh Warbler and Temminck's Stint. A European Bee-eater flew south at Spurn on 29th.

June

In a year of exceptional weather, it was June's turn to be one of the wettest ever. The first half was cool, with northerlies. A late Rough-legged Buzzard was over Spurn on 1st and the last of the spring's 15 Temminck's Stints at Saltend on 1st-2nd. South-westerlies on 7th brought the first of four Alpine Swifts at Spurn whilst the southerly airstream from mid-month brought further southern overshooting migrants, including more Red-backed Shrikes. A Great Egret was seen at Broomhill on 15th and 16th. Spurn noted European Serins on 16th and 21st, European Bee-eaters on 17th and 24th and a Caspian Tern on 27th.

July

With north-westerlies in the first week, migration quietened, and it was time for Storm-Petrel ringing. A juvenile Common Rosefinch at Filey on 19th was intriguing, whilst a Red-necked Phalarope at Spurn on 20th was the first there for 20 years. Roseate Terns began moving south along the coast by the end of the month.

August

Much of the month was dominated by Atlantic depressions. A White-winged (Black) Tern was at Broomhill on 2nd and a wandering Caspian Tern first put in an appearance at Tophill Low NR on 3rd. An inland Grey Phalarope was at Eccup Res on 6th-7th. A spell of northerlies from 21st encouraged seawatchers and Cory's and Balearic Shearwaters were noted. A blocking anticyclone developed on 29th and the calm south-easterlies that resulted brought not unexpected Barred Warblers and Eurasian Wrynecks.

September

South-easterlies continued at the beginning of the month, and new arrivals included Aquatic Warbler, Tawny Pipit and Ortolan Bunting at Spurn and Greenish Warblers at Flamborough and Whitby. The origins of 2 Ruddy Shelduck arriving at Spurn from the sea at this time are open to conjecture. A series of depressions and wet westerlies from 8th meant there was then little of note on the coast, but did bring a Pectoral Sandpiper to Filey on 11th-12th and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper to Edderthorpe Flash on 15th. As the winds moved round to a more north-westerly

quarter on 12th sea-watching picked up with Leach's Petrel, a small passage of Long-tailed Skua and both Cory's and Great Shearwaters being recorded from coastal watch-points.

From the 18th light south-easterlies set in, with an anticyclone over Scandinavia, and things definitely improved. There was a rush of Red-breasted Flycatchers with up to 7 at Spurn between 20th and 27th, with 2 Subalpine Warblers, 3 Red-throated Pipits and 5 Yellow-browed Warblers also recorded there. Elsewhere another Red-throated Pipit was at South Gare, an Isabelline Wheatear at Whitby on 26th and a Booted Warbler at Flamborough on 27th.

October

The wind remained in the east in the first week, bringing a fine male Pied Wheatear to Spurn and four more Rustic Buntings to the county, together with a "Siberian" Stonechat to Filey and a notable influx of Great Grey Shrikes. There was a strong supporting cast of Spotted Crake, Corn Crake, Dotterel, Wryneck, Greater Short-toed Lark, Pallas's Warbler, Common Rosefinch, Ortolan and Little Bunting at various points along the coast, whilst a Wryneck was also recorded inland at Wheldrake. South-westerlies set in from the 9th, but a Yellow-browed Warbler remained to be found on Thorne Moors on 10th. This period was good for visible passage of more common species, and they were accompanied by an influx of Horned Larks.

November

Wet westerlies prevailed for most of the month but the first few days were excellent for coastal passage, with Great Northern and Black-throated Divers, Velvet Scoter, Little Auk and Long-tailed Skua all being recorded. A Grey Phalarope remained at Hornsea whilst there was a late show of Pallas's Warblers at Flamborough and Filey. Horned Larks maintained a strong presence on the coast and 3 Great Grey Shrikes were found inland later in the month, together with a Green-winged Teal on North Duffield Carrs on 28th.

December

The year ended without any severe weather. Great Northern Divers and Red-necked Grebes remained in Filey Bay, with 2 Slavonian Grebes returning to BPNR. Inland at least one Great Grey Shrike was found in the Lower Derwent valley.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1998

All rare and unusual species in this Report have been considered by the Reports Committee of the YNU and found to be acceptable on the evidence supplied by the observers. Records that require national verification have been submitted and accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* (BBRC). The sequence and nomenclature used is that of the BOU *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* (6th edition, 1992), updated BOU 1999 and 2000. Changes that will take effect from January 2001 have been implemented retrospectively (e.g. Green-winged Teal).

The following abbreviations are used in the text:

BPNR	Beacon Ponds Nature Reserve
CP	Country Park
GC	Golf Course
GP	Gravel Pit
LDNNR	Lower Derwent National Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
PHENR	Pulfin and High Eske Nature Reserve
Res	Reservoir
RVCP	Rother Valley Country Park
SF	Sewage Farm
TLNR	Tophill Low Nature Reserve

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

Uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor: rare inland

1998: The year started off with a reasonable showing in January, and numbers peaked in November. One was in Bridlington Bay on 1st January, one off Marske on 4th with 2 the next day, and one that flew north past Filey Brigg on 5th was later seen in the Bay from 7th to 24th. 2 were off South Gare on 6th with one there until 18th and again on 27th, while Flamborough had 13 on 9 dates in January, with 4 on 7th. Singles were at Barmston on 14th with singles in Filey Bay and at Spurn on 24th, and in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough from 26th-29th. Inland in January, one was at Burstwick Ski ponds near Hull on 9th and 10th and one was at Lockwood Beck Res near Guisborough on 14th January. In February one was at Redcar on 1st and 7th; 3 flew south at Skipsea on 8th, and a single flew south there next day, and one was in Cayton Bay on 22nd with 3 during the month at Flamborough. In March up to 4 were off Cromer Point, Scarborough between 11th and 13th March, and 3 were again at Flamborough, with one at Barmston on 21st. A single was in Filey Bay on 14th April and the last of the spring was off Cromer Point on 7th May.

Singles flew north at Flamborough on 26th July and at Long Nab, Scarborough on 30th August, whilst a summer-plumaged adult flew north at Filey on 13th September. There was one at Spurn on 17th and 6 in September at

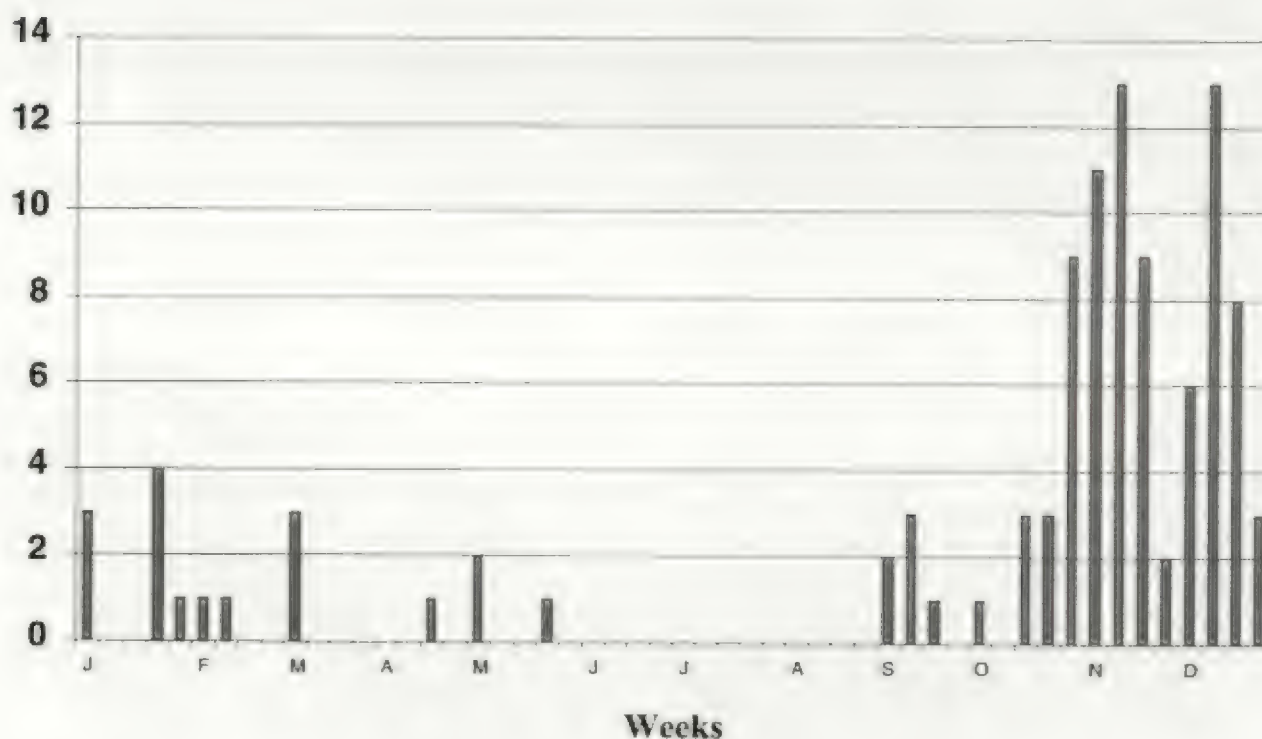
Flamborough, including 3 on 19th. In October 6 were seen off Flamborough on 5 dates, with singles at Spurn on 6th and 21st. A juvenile was on the sea at Filey on 29th October and a single was off South Gare on 30th. In November there was a series of records from the coast. Most birds (25) were noted at Flamborough, with 2 on 1st, 5 on 4th, and 7 on 23rd. Spurn had 4 on 1st, 1 on 2nd, 2 on 7th and 1 on 15th. Elsewhere, an adult flew north at Filey on 3rd, singles were off Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 12th, 3 flew north past Marine Drive, Scarborough on 16th, one was in Cloughton Wyke on 17th and one off Redcar on 29th. In December one was in Burniston Bay on 1st; a further 24 were recorded at Flamborough with 5 on 7th; one was in Filey Bay on 12th when 3 passed Hornsea and singles flew past Hornsea on 19th and 20th.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

1998: Only seen in low numbers on the coast in the early months, but a peak during passage in November. One was in Cayton Bay from 4th-12th January and one in Filey Bay from 5th January to early February, being joined by a second on one day. Off South Gare there was one from 7th to 9th January and 1-2 again from 24th to 18th February whilst singles flew north at Hornsea on 24th and Flamborough on 25th January. In February singles flew south at Hornsea on 3rd and north off Skipsea on 9th, with one off Marske on 14th-15th. In March one was at Spurn on 7th and 2 off Scarborough on 10th-11th. The only April record was a single north past Cromer Point, Scarborough on 19th. 2 were seen off Flamborough on 3rd May and one off Spurn on 27th.

Great Northern Diver
weekly totals 1998



In September singles were recorded at Flamborough on 8th and Spurn on 9th. 3 flew south at Long Nab on 15th and one at Flamborough on 20th. One flew south past the Marine Drive, Scarborough on 2nd October, 3 flew south at Filey on 17th/18th, with one seen regularly in the Bay from 23rd and a summer-plumaged adult there from 27th, whilst singles flew past Cowbar on 25th and again on 15th November. Also in the north of the county, singles passed Skinningrove on 8th and Saltburn on 18th. 28 were recorded on 14 dates in November at Flamborough, with 8 on the 4th (a Flamborough record), 3 on 7th, and 3 on 23rd. One was at Spurn on 1st, 2 on 7th and one on 15th, whilst by 7th/8th November, 6 were present in Filey Bay, with 3 remaining until 5th December and 2 to the year-end. An adult drifted east on the Humber at Saltend, Hull on 9th November (BR). 16 were recorded on 7 dates in December at Flamborough with 3 on 11th and 24th and 4 on 24th.

Elsewhere in December, 3 were off Barmston on 5th, 3 passed Hornsea on 12th, with singles at Bridlington and Bempton on 6th, Redcar on 12th, Saltburn on 14th-15th, Spurn on 19th, Hornsea on 20th and 25th and one was in Cayton Bay on 27th.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor

1998: There was an influx of around 30 birds at the beginning of the year. In January, 4 remained in Filey Bay from 1997, but a record 6 were in the Bay on 20th sheltering from strong north-westerlies and 5 were still present on 24th. Elsewhere, one from 1997 remained at Coatham Marsh, Redcar until 13th June, with 2 off South Gare/Redcar/Marske from 2nd January to 14th February. 2 were in Cayton Bay on 10th January with 4 there on 12th; one was in Scarborough's South Bay/Harbour area from 17th January to 14th February and 6 individuals were seen off Flamborough including 2 on 23rd. Inland, 3 birds were at RVCP during January and February, one at Thornton Moor Res on 17th January and one at Pugney's CP from 20th to 31st. In February there were further singles at South Gare on 1st, Scarborough on 7th, Skipsea on 8th, and Flamborough on 21st whilst 4 remained in Filey Bay. In March further reported singles were in Scarborough Harbour on 7th and off Flamborough on 23rd with 3 still at Filey, and 2 there into April, when a further 2 singles were recorded at Flamborough. One was at TLNR on 15th April and nearby PHENR from 18th to 22nd. A summer-plumaged bird was present at Filey from 14th to 16th May and one at South Gare on 20th June may have been the Coatham Marsh bird.

Summer-plumaged birds were also at TLNR on 19th July, Flamborough on 26th, offshore at Spurn from 24th to 26th and at Filey from 27th to 31st August. 3 juveniles accompanied the latter on 28th. 12 were recorded on 6 dates at Flamborough in August, including 7 on 29th. A single was at South Gare on 12th-17th September, with 2 at Filey and 3 at Flamborough that month. 3 were at Flamborough in October and 6 in November with 2 north there on 4th, when 2 were at Filey. One was at Spurn on 1st and 3rd November and one off Cromer Point on 13th. Inland at this time, one was at Methley Quarry, Castleford from 1st

to 15th November, and singles were at Hornsea Mere on 22nd and at PHENR near Beverley from 29th until 6th December. On the coast in December, one was off the Marine Drive, Scarborough on 5th; 2 were at Bridlington and one off Barmston on 6th; one off Hornsea on 11th; one at Easington on 12th; singles off Marske on 14th and 18th; 3 in Filey Bay on 14th and 4 on 26th; one off Fraisthorpe on 15th; 2 passed Hornsea on 20th and 7 were reported from Flamborough.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor

1998: This species, like the above, was recorded in above average numbers despite the mild temperatures in early January. One was present at Beacon Ponds NR from 1997, and was joined by another from 11th January until 30th March. Singles were at Filey on several dates in January and early February, but 4 in Filey Bay from 10th to 16th were a record count. One was seen between South Gare and Marske from 3rd January to 14th February; 1-3 were in Cayton Bay on several dates from 10th January to 7th March, and singles were seen at Flamborough on 20th and 30th. Inland one was at Dacre Lake, Brandesburton on 4th and 2 were at Wheldrake on 10th. In February singles were off South Gare and 2 in Filey Bay on 1st, 2 in Cayton Bay on 15th, and 2 still there on 7th March. In April only one bird remained - a summer-plumaged bird off Long Nab, Scarborough on 26th April.

In autumn, singles were off the Marine Drive, Scarborough on 2nd and 12th October, at TLNR on 17th October and Hornsea Mere on 16th November. One was at Skelton Lake, Leeds on 25th November, one in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 28th and one in Filey Bay on 13th December, whilst one at Beacon Ponds NR, Kilnsea from 6th December was joined by another from 10th and they remained through to 1999.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare recent breeding species: scarce visitor and passage migrant

1998: An unusual winter record came from Hellifield Flash, where one remained from 5th to 20th January. Breeding birds then returned to Wheldrake on 29th March, with pairs at Wheldrake and North Duffield Carrs by 30th. 5 pairs were eventually reported from the Lower Derwent valley, rearing 11 young. One was still at Wheldrake on 16th July.

Elsewhere, in spring two were off Barmston on 31st March; singles at TLNR on 2nd-3rd and 10th April; one at Thorne Moors NNR on 18th and 24th April, and 2 were on Hornsea Mere on 22nd with 3 there on 23rd, one remaining until 29th. In May a pair was at Farnham GP on 15th and singles were at TLNR on 17th-18th and 25th, with 2 at Fairburn on 17th and one at Coatham Marsh on 31st. In July one was at Southfield Res on 3rd July, one at Hornsea Mere from 25th July to 11th August and one at New Swillington Ings on 24th August.

Later in autumn singles were in September were at Broomhill Ings from 3rd-8th, TLNR from 13th-25th and Anglers CP on 19th. In October a headless corpse was found on the dam wall at Winterset Res on 2nd, with singles at

Southfield Res on 5th and at Pugney's CP on 18th and a juvenile was at Hornsea Mere on 7th November then possibly the same bird at TLNR on 24th. The last of the year were 3 birds at Castle Howard Lake on 5th December.



CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

Scarce coastal summer/autumn vagrant

1998: The only records were from Flamborough. One flew south on 8th August, with further singles south on 15th, 16th, 21st, and 27th. Singles flew north on 22nd August and in September on 17th.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis*

Very scarce coastal vagrant, mainly in late summer/autumn

1998: Singles were reported south off Flamborough on 21st July and north on 17th and 18th September (PAL *et al*).

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Scarce coastal migrant, mainly in late summer/autumn

1998: Singles passed Flamborough Head on 17th January and 21st March. In autumn, the first 2 passed Hornsea on 23rd July. Singles flew north at Filey on 22nd, Filey and Grimston on 23rd and Spurn on 24th August. At Flamborough, there were 11 on 8 dates in August, with 3 on 16th and 8 on 4 dates in September, with a peak of 4 on 11th. One flew north at Filey on 13th September and one south on 2nd October.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Scarce coastal migrant and non-breeding visitor to the coast: rare inland

1998: One was reported off Flamborough Head on 4th January, with another north there on 27th August, and one at Spurn on 29th of that month. 2 flew north

past Hornsea and one south at Staithes on 3rd November, and one came ashore with a Scarborough trawler and was ringed on 23rd December at Filey.

54 new birds were tape-lured at Filey in July and August and 4 controlled, with 23 birds caught there on 21st, and a further 13 were tape-lured on August 2nd. Three of the controls were Norwegian birds. Only 4 were tape-lured and trapped at Flamborough that month, although 5 birds were attracted on 4th, one on 11th and 3 on 18th.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Very scarce coastal migrant: rare inland

1998: Singles were seen off Spurn (LJD: NAB) and Filey on 13th September (JMT *et al*), and one was seen from the "Yorkshire Belle" RSPB cruise out of Bridlington on 20th September (DG *et al*).

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

Scarce migrant and winter visitor

1998: 7 birds were estimated to have over-wintered from 1997, with 2 at Coatham Marsh, Redcar, 2 at Wheldrake Ings and 2 regulars remaining at Potteric Carr until 14th February with the final sighting of a single there on 22nd March. One from 1997 was seen roosting in its favoured reedbed at Winterset Res until 18th February.

Singles were seen at Wheldrake on 14th and 19th March, with the first booming male there on 20th. Two males were booming there on 21st and 28th, and one was flushed from the Pocklington Canal at Melbourne on 29th. A single boomed on 3rd and 22nd April and 9th and 23rd June, suggesting only one summering bird. One was at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd August and another at Potteric Carr on 9th-15th.

Regular returning birds were at Winterset Res, Coatham Marsh Redcar, Pugney's CP and Potteric Carr in November, with 2 at the latter site on 29th December. Thorpe Marsh also had a wintering bird, seen on 12-13th December and from 20th to the year-end. Others were at Otley GP on 30th November and at Farnham GP on 20th December, the possible total of 9 reflecting perhaps the highest-ever national WeBS count to date in December.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Rare vagrant

1998: A first-summer was at Marley SW, near Keighley, on 14th April (DCB: MJ: KM *et al*).

Amendment to 1996 Report: VC 63 The bird at Thorne Moors on 4th June has now been accepted by BBRC.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis***Rare vagrant**

Addition to the 1992 Report: VC 61 One at Hornsea Mere on 14th May (TDC: DRM *et al*).

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta***Scarce vagrant in slowly increasing numbers**

1998: The numbers reported are steadily increasing, as this species becomes locally common in southern England. At least three different birds were present in the county in May and early June. One bird was reported from Potteric Carr and Methley Quarry, Castleford on 8th May, and from Mickletown Ings and later at Fairburn on 18th and 19th. Other singles were at Nosterfield on 9th and Skirlington near Skipsea from 9th May to 2nd June. 2 were seen together at Blacktoft Sands on 1st June and one was with Grey Herons on the banks of the Derwent at Rillington on 7th.

GREAT EGRET *Egretta alba***Rare summer vagrant**

1998: An adult in breeding plumage was at Old Moor/Wath Ings on 15th and 16th June (JHG: JHe: MS *et al*). It was last seen going to roost on 16th. The 13th county record. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 7: 57-58.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia***Scarce vagrant: kept in captivity**

1998: A free-flying un-ringed first-year male from Harewood House in spring and at least one of the 2 ringed first-year females occasionally escaped in the year making evaluation of records difficult. All spring adults were probably of wild origin and thought not to be Harewood birds, as both flightless adults were nesting and did not leave the park in April and May, rearing one young (Nick Addey, *Yorkshire Birding* Vol. 7: 94-97). There were widespread reports of at least 2 wandering individuals in the county, with a number of sightings in South and West Yorkshire in April and May. One at Wheldrake, Fairburn and Knaresborough on 15th March was thought to be a first-year Harewood escapee, as was the ringed bird at Bolton Abbey on 16th. One over Altoft Ings on 31st March, and April birds at Malton and then Wheldrake from 9th to 12th, Leeds on 11th, York on 18th, Fairburn on 24th, Knaresborough on 25th and Bretton Lakes from 25th-27th were most likely from Harewood. The same origin no doubt accounted for birds seen at Pugney's CP and New Swillington Ings on 2nd and Copley on 9th May, Fewston on 4th June and High Batts NR on 27th. July sightings included reports from Bedale and Nosterfield, while 2 birds flew north-east over Broomhill, Winterset CP, Anglers CP and New Swillington Ings on September 13th apparently heading back towards Harewood!

The following records are thought to have better credentials and are treated here as of wild origin. Birds in April included one over TLNR on 4th; an

adult at Flamborough on 6th (JS *et al*); an adult at Filey from 15th to 19th which was seen to come in off the sea (SC *et al*); a different adult on 30th April at Broomhill Ings leaving south-west on 1st May after roosting overnight at Old Moor (DMW: SCR *et al*); an an-aged bird at Hornsea on 7th (thought to be the same as one seen earlier in Lincolnshire and later in Northumberland); one at RVCP on 16th (KRG), then probably the same at Driffeld on 20th, Brough Haven on 22nd (RL: EJH) and Hull on 25th May (AAt).

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

Scarce migrant and summer visitor

1998: One was at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd April. 2 flew north-west over Filey on 4th May (AN *et al*) and one flew west over Blacktoft Sands on 27th May. An adult remained at Blacktoft from 5th to 14th June with 2 different birds there on 28th. 3 adults were briefly at Blacktoft on 27th July, with one or two birds there in August. 2 adults were at Bellflask Quarry near Ripon on 4th September. One remained at Blacktoft until October and was seen at Southfield Res on 2nd November.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*

Irregular winter visitor and passage migrant

1998: One south at Spurn on 31st May and 3 south over the outer head at Flamborough on 28th October were not assigned to race.

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser (fabalis) fabalis*

1998: The only records came from the Lower Derwent valley. One or two were present in January at Wheldrake Ings with the Greylag flock, with one still there on 25th and 27th March. 16 were at Thorganby on 5th January. 5 were at East Cottingwith on 15th February. One re-appeared with Greylag on North Duffield Carrs on 28th November. 15 at Storwood on 1st December increased to 42 on 4th, but soon moved on, with just one on 7th, 3 on 16th and then 2 until 6 on 30th.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser (fabalis) rossicus*

1998: One was at Scaling Dam Res on 12th January, with 9 at Wheldrake Ings on 15th February and one at Stamps Pond, Brandesburton on 17th. In March, one was at TLNR on 29th March and 2 were there on 2nd April.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis*

Rare vagrant: kept in captivity

1998: An adult was seen at Tophill Low NR on 17th January (L&MB: EJH: RL *et al*), which was thought to be the same as one previously seen on Teesside on 7th (and counted in BBRC totals for that year). Presumably the same bird later turned up at Nosterfield NR on 26th February, staying until 13th March, and loosely associated with three Greylag with Swedish neck-collars and other migrant geese. The origin of this bird was debated, but it is believed by many to have arrived on

the East Coast with Scandinavian Greylags. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 7: 13-17.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escape: has very occasionally bred

1998: An un-ringed bird was reported from Otley GP on several dates between 30th March and 31st May.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

Rare vagrant: feral/escapes confuse status

The occasional presence of other exotic Shelduck species on the Humber casts a large shadow of doubt over the origins of this species, and feral populations nearby across the North Sea may well provide a source for some of the records.

1998: 1 flew north at Grimston on 30th August (TI). 2 arrived from the east at Spurn on 3rd September and alighted on the Humber. 2 were at Brough Haven on 6th September, when one was shot, with an immature remaining there until 20th (RL et al).

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escapes

Although commonly kept in ornamental wildfowl collections, records of this species are being monitored in case the species becomes established as a feral breeder in the county.

1998: Males were reported from Elland GP on 4th January, 4th April and 6th-12th December, and from Wibsey Park Lake on several occasions. A female on the River Ribble near Settle from 18th March to 17th April was joined by a male on 26th March. Another female was at Knotford Nook on 1st April and a female was reported from a hole on a tree at Fulford Ings on 5th April. A drake was present at PHENR from 6th August to 19th September and males were at Dowley Gap SW on 31st August, Candy Farm, and Doncaster on 19th October, at Brighouse on 1st December. A female was in Valley gardens, Harrogate on 30th December.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK *Anas rubripes*

Rare vagrant

Alteration to 1986 Report: VC 61 A drake at Broomfleet Ponds on 1st September is now considered inadequately documented (*British Birds* 91: p 467). There is now only one record for Yorkshire, a single at Fairburn Ings on 20th December 1978.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

Rare vagrant

1998: A first-winter drake was seen briefly in the county at Austerfield near Bawtry on 5th April, having been present in the Idle Valley, Nottinghamshire from

8th March until 17th April (JW). A male was seen at South Gare and Bran Sands on 19th April (MCo *et al*).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*

Rare vagrant

1998: Drakes were at Hornsea Mere on 15th March (WFC), at Astley Lake from 11th to 14th May (PRG: PRM) and at North Duffield Carrs on 28th November and 3rd December (CSR).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*

Rare vagrant

1998: A female was identified at Potteric Carr on 28th April (SMB: DC).

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

Scarce vagrant, occasional feral breeder but feral populations elsewhere confuse status

1998: With 60-70 birds at the Cotswold Water Park in Gloucestershire reported in 98-99 (*WeBS 1998/1999 Survey 2000* p92), the birds in Yorkshire are most likely of feral origin, although probably from more local ornamental collections. A female was at Coatham Marsh, Redcar on 29th January and a juvenile there on 9th-10th August. A female was at Mickletown Ings from 15th to 29th August, at Lowther Lake on 11th October, and reported from Fairburn in November. Ducks were also at Winterset Res from 8th November to the year-end, frequently visiting Anglers CP, and at Farnely Res Leeds on 23rd December. All records from West Yorkshire may refer to the same female. A hybrid was reported from Fairburn in April and August.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

Scarce vagrant

1998: The female remained at Pugney's from 1997 until 9th February, and a drake returned to the lower Aire valley, first at Altoft Ings on 15th February, then intermittently at New Swillington Ings and Fairburn from 10th to 25th May. It moved to Astley Lake from 12th June until 5th July. A second drake was reported from Wheldrake Ings on 31st May, and occasionally in June until 29th, apparently paired with a duck Pochard. Presumably the Aire Valley drake was at Methley on 9th August, and at Anglers from 5th September to 13th December (SD *et al*).

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis*

Rare vagrant

1998: A second-summer male was found off South Gare at 11.20 on 4th July (MAB *et al*). It remained there for about two hours resting and preening with Common Eiders before flying north to Hartlepool Headland. The second Yorkshire record. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 7: 100-101.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis**Uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor: very scarce inland*

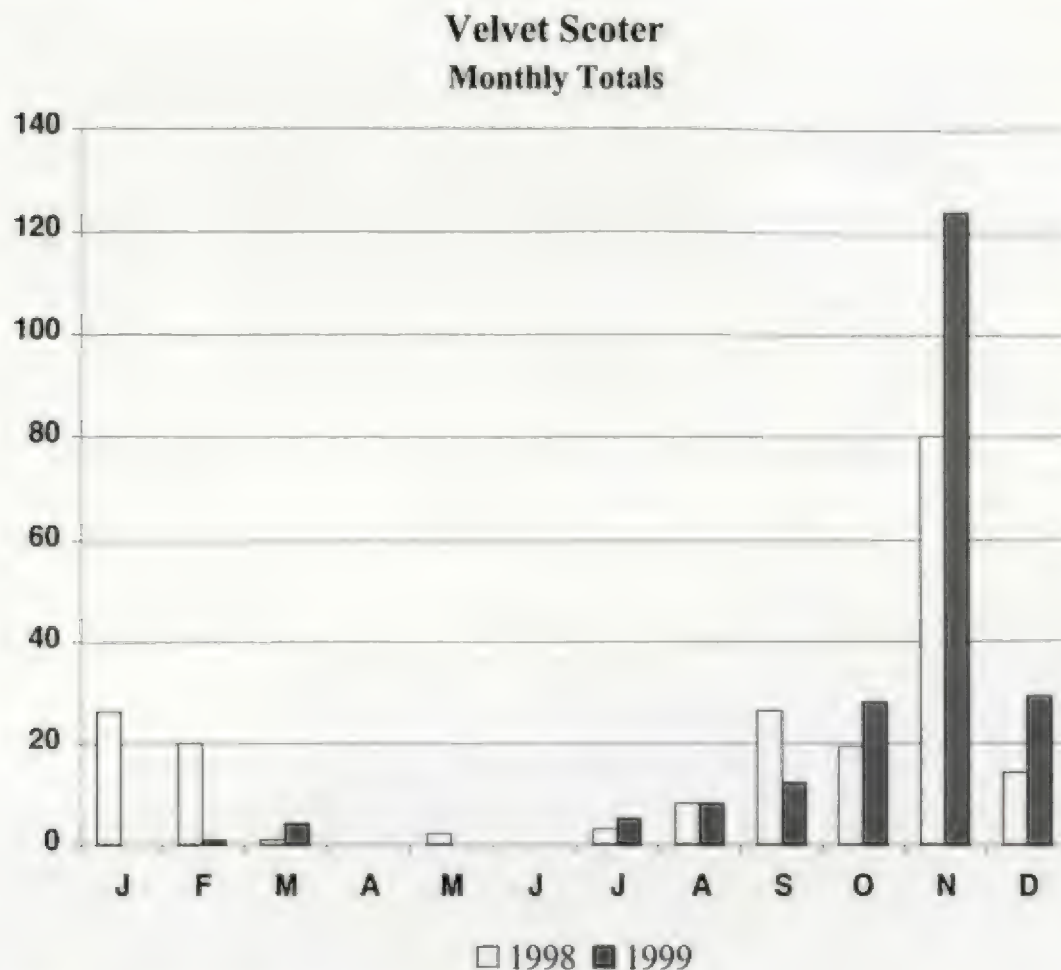
1998: One was in Filey Bay in January. 2 on 21st March at Flamborough were the first of the year there, followed by a single on 6th April and 2 unusually late birds on 3rd May. One was at Hornsea Mere on 11th August. Filey Bay had singles in October and late November/early December. A movement of ducks at the coast on 3rd November included 12 north at Teesmouth and 13 north off Hornsea, 3 north at Cromer Point, 2 past Marine Drive, Scarborough and singles past Filey and South Gare. Flamborough had 16 on 6 dates in November, with a peak of 7 on 2nd, and Spurn had 5 records in November, with another at BPNR on 7th and 8th and up to 2 at Hornsea Mere from 17th to 29th. One was in Scarborough Harbour on 13th December and there were 7 records from Flamborough in that month, with 3 on 21st being the last.

2 were inland at TLNR from October 13th to November 4th/5th, with further singles at Methley Quarry from 6th November until the year-end and an immature at Cold Hiendley Res (Winterset) from 5th November to 12th December.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca**Uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor: rare inland*

1998: Early records included 3 north off Cromer Point on 3rd January, 10 at Flamborough and one at Spurn on 23rd January and 8 past Flamborough on 31st. There were 4 records from Filey in January and 10 on 5 dates in February at Flamborough. Singles were at Spurn on 14th March and 23rd May when one also passed Flamborough. 2 were at Flamborough on 1st July and one was inland at Tophill NR on the early date of 2nd July. Flamborough had 6 in August, when one passed Long Nab, Scarborough and Filey on 23rd and another passed Spurn on 29th with further singles at Spurn on 1st and 13th September.

Filey had 3 and Flamborough 2 in September, with 2 north at Long Nab on 16th, whilst 4 flew north, 6 south and 5 were on the sea off Marine Drive Scarborough on 27th with 2 north there on 30th. Flamborough had a further 11 in October and 2 passed Long Nab towards the month end. It was recorded more frequently from Spurn in October, with a maximum of 6 on 31st. Numbers on the coast were maintained in November, with 33 at Flamborough including 11 on 1st when 6 also flew north and one south at Long Nab, whilst 5 flew north at Scarborough and Filey, 21 north at Hornsea and 7 at Spurn on 3rd. A female was on Hornsea Mere on 2nd a drake was on the Humber at Hessle on 14th November. 7 were reported from Flamborough in December, one at Scarborough and 2 at Filey on 5th and 2 from both Hornsea and Spurn on 19th.



EUROPEAN HONEY- BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Rare breeding species and scarce migrant

1998: A pair was present during the breeding season, but was unsuccessful, as the eggs were infertile. In May one flew up the Humber at Spurn on 15th, one over Wheldrake on 26th and one over Flamborough on 30th, with singles over Hornsea Mere and near Langsett on 9th, Bempton on 20th and Filey on 21st June. Birds were seen from the Wykeham Raptor viewpoint from 28th May to 6th August, whilst a "buzzard" seen by a gamekeeper digging out a wasps' nest in Great Gate Wood near Doncaster in late August/early September was undoubtedly this species. In September, one flew south at Filey on 2nd; 2 were reported from Flamborough in off the sea on 3rd and one there on 4th; one was in the Washburn Valley near Otley on 3rd and 4th; one flew north over Filey on 21st; one flew north-west up the Humber at Spurn on 30th and presumably the same bird flew west over Sammy's Point, Easington on 1st October. Later one was over RVCP and Sheffield on 3rd October.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

Rare migrant

1998: One flew over Tophill Low on 9th May (RL *et al*).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Very scarce migrant: has bred

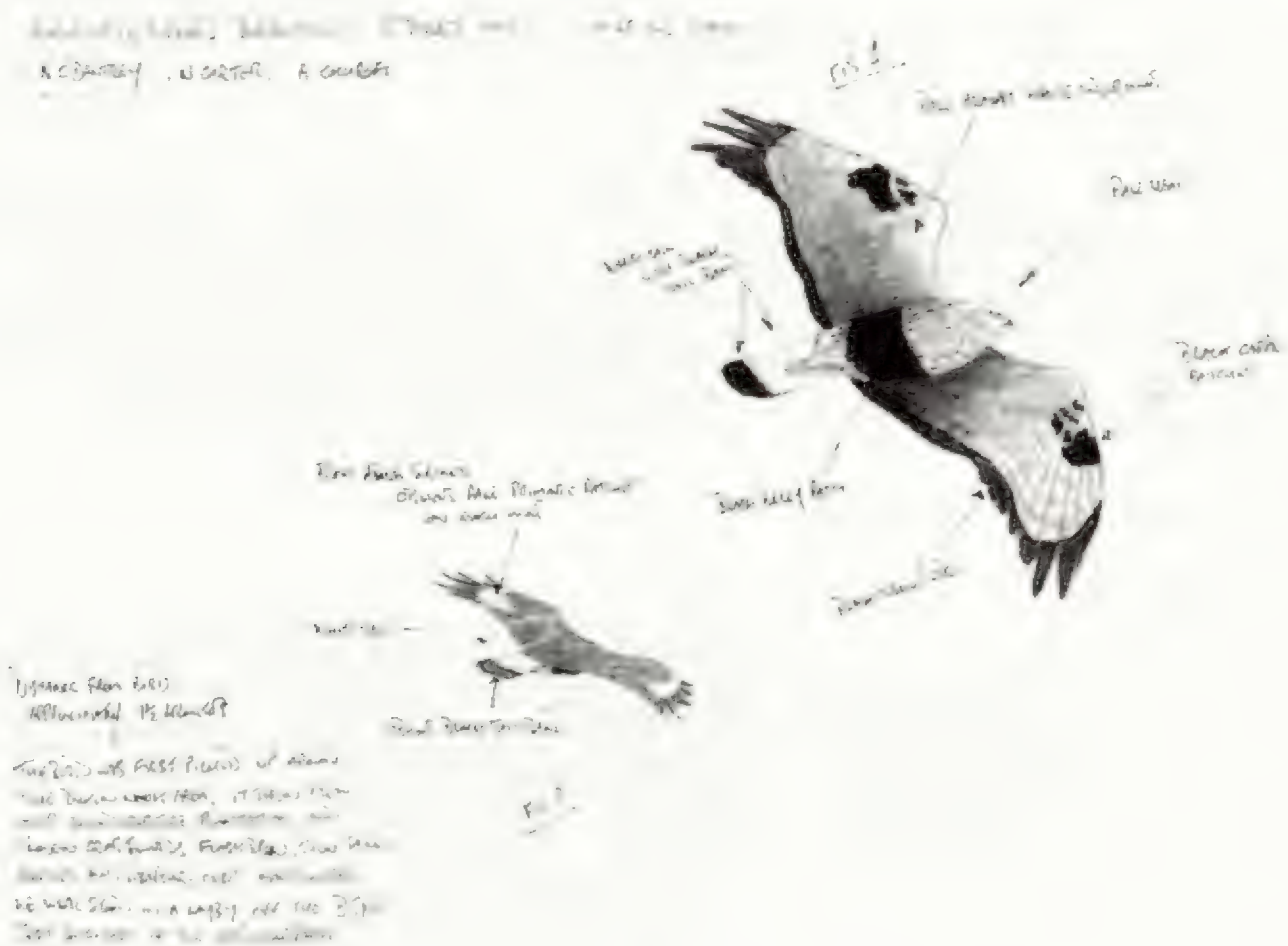
1998: A male flew south at Spurn on 23rd April, a female was reported at Danes Dyke, Flamborough on 17th May whilst another female was at Bempton on 4th June and from 17th to 20th July.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

Scarce migrant and winter visitor

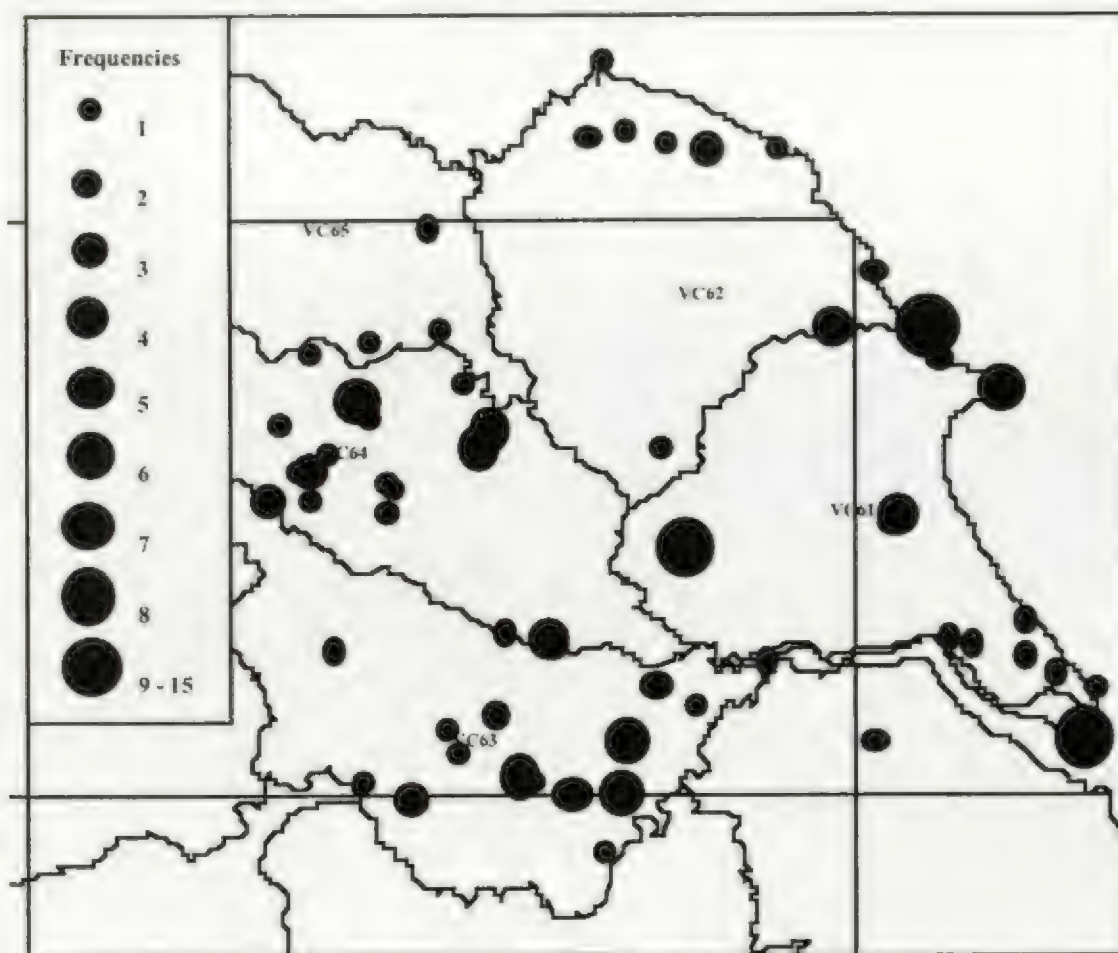
1998: 2 were regularly seen on the North York Moors from January to early March, being reported from Bransdale and Sleddale. One showed well in Derwentdale at Howden Res from 10th January and was seen at Barnside Moor on 15th March (DMS), Hingcliff Common on 29th March, Broomhead Res on 30th March (DWO), at Pike Low on 5th April (SG: JWa) and Ewden Heights on 5th, 6th, 14th and 25th April. One was reported from the Gouthwaite area from 7th January to March (PJC), including at Barden Scale on 5th March (NCD *et al*). One flew north-west at Spurn on 3rd May (LJD: PKG), with one at Sammy's Point, Easington on 24th (AA: DJS), with probably the same bird flying south at Beacon Ponds and Spurn on 1st June (MJP *et al*).

In autumn, one flew south at Spurn on 30th September, one was at Coatham Marsh, Redcar on 3rd October, and one was at Skeffling and later Grimston on 11th, 12th and 17th October (TI). One was in Sleddale again from 18th to 25th and another at Leighton Res on 25th and Broomhead Moor on 26th. Further sightings included a first-winter in the Kildale/Comondale area in November, and singles at Scaling Dam on 3rd, Dallowgill on 12th (PKB: DVB), and Bransdale on 19th December.



OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus***Regular passage migrant in increasing numbers**

1998: The number of records continues to increase as the population in Scotland flourishes. A very early record was one at Carlton-in-Lindrick (SK58) on 15th March followed by one flying up Wharfedale and another through Wheldrake on 27th March, and singles north over Barnside and Skipton Moors on 31st. In April there were singles at Great Ayton on 3rd; Shibden Valley on 4th; LDNNR on 4th, 12th and 16th; Filey on 5th and 30th; Midhope Moor on 7th; Farnham GP on 10th and 20th with 2 on 24th; Thrybergh CP on 11th; in the Shibden Valley on 12th; at Flamborough and Potteric Carr on 13th; Winterset on 14th; Denaby Ings on 18th; Scalby on 19th; West Bretton on 20th; Staveley NR from 24th-30th and near Winestead on 26th. In May singles were at Brampton Brierlow, Ewden Valley, Sammy's Point Easington, Scar House and Staveley NR on 2nd; LDNNR on 6th, 9th and 11th; Spurn on 6th, 9th, 16th, 20th and 26th; Warland near Halifax on 9th; Winscar Res on 9th; PHENR, Blacktoft and Thorpe Marsh on 10th; Southfield Res on 12th; Thorne on 15th; Aislaby on 19th; Filey on 24th; Barnside Moor and Airedale on 27th and Netherwood/Broomhill Ings on 30th. In June singles were at Filey on 4th, TLNR on 13th and Langold Lake on 25th. In July one was at Filey on 15th, one came in off the sea at Flamborough on 21st and one was again at Langold Lake on 25th.

Osprey 1998-1999

In August, one lingered at Scaling Dam from 2nd to 22nd, whilst singles were logged over Wilsic on 15th, Thrybergh CP on 24th, Ripon on 25th, near Wilfholme on 26th, south at Southfield Res and Spurn on 27th and over Wintersett CP on 31st. In September an adult was at Timble Ings/Fewston and Swinsty Res/Kex Gill Quarry from 2nd -13th, one was at Scalby on 5th, 2 were over the sea at the southern end of Robin Hood's Bay on 7th and a juvenile was at Swinsty from 8th-14th. One was at Broomhill Ings on 9th, singles were at Watton Carrs and Spurn on 10th and TLNR on 12th and a juvenile was found dead at Thorpe Perrow on 13th. Also in September, there were singles at Winscar Res on 19th, Gouthwaite on 19th-20th, at Lockwood Beck on 20th, at High Batts NR and Wheldrake on 23rd, and a long-staying juvenile at Thrybergh CP from 30th September to 26th October. Singles were at Denaby Ings on 1st and 18th, Dob Park Bridge on 3rd, Potteric Carr on 6th and 10th and Strines Res on 10th October.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

Rare resident/escaped or deliberately released species: has bred

All records are assumed to be of escaped or released birds, and a self-supporting feral population does not appear to be established. All records were from the Bradford district.

1998: Males were at Lindley Wood Res on 21st and 23rd April, at Daisy Bank in Cragg Vale on 2nd May, and at Luddenden Dean on 23rd October.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*

Rare breeding species and scarce migrant

1998: Birds were reported as calling in the Derwent Valley. The only confirmed sight records were one flushed at Spurn on 5th October, one at Coatham Marsh, Redcar on 7th and one at Potteric Carr from 10th October to 3rd November (SMB: DC *et al*).

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex*

Rare breeding species, summer visitor and scarce migrant

1998: Singing birds were reported from the Derwent Valley, although the only accepted record received with a description of the call was of one singing near East Cottingwith on 16th June (PD). In autumn, passage birds were recorded mostly in September from the coast, but there was one inland record of a bird flushed at Redmires Res Sheffield, on 8th September (SJR). Singles were flushed at Spurn on 5th near "Big Hedge" (MGS), on 6th in the Point dunes (LJD), on 20th near the lighthouse, and one was near Beacon Ponds NR, Kilnsea on 20th (LJD: GF). Another in Kilnsea on 21st was taken into care but died on 22nd. A single was flushed from near the lighthouse at Flamborough on 2nd October (JMcL).

Correction to 1996 Report: Date of one at Low Moor, Upper Midhope was 22nd, not 27th July.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

Scarce migrant

1998: One roosted at Wheldrake Ings on 11th and 12th May (CSR).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

Rare vagrant

1998: A moulting adult was at Saltend near Hull on 8th September (BR) and a juvenile was found at Wombwell Ings on 15th, staying in the Old Moor Wetlands area from 15th to 26th October (JHG: JHe: DMW *et al*). It briefly visited Edderthorpe Flash on 20th October (AS *et al*). A full account of this bird is in *Yorkshire Birding* Vol. 7: 125-126.

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

Scarce passage migrant: has very occasionally bred

1998: The first were on Burbage Moor where 2-3 on five dates between 18th April and 3rd May (JA *et al*). Then one at North Duffield Carrs on 2nd May, 3 on Rombalds/Ilkley Moor on 4th and 9th (KM: D& HK: BV: PC), with one at Redcar on 7th (MAB) and 8 there the following morning (SDK), when there was a small influx into the county. 8 were on Burbage Moor on 8th and 17 on 13th May, with 7 remaining to 14th (JA: PHP *et al*). 8 were at Owstwick on 8th-9th (TI *et al*) 7 at Swinefleet from 8th-10th, 15 at Great Whernside on 10th, 2 at Flamborough on 12th (PAL) and one at Danby Beacon on 23rd (MF).

In autumn, one was at Cromer Point, Scarborough on 16th August (MF); a juvenile at Axel Lane (SK 58) on 2nd September; singles at South Gare on 1st (JBD) and over Coatham Marsh on 6th October (JR: AJW) and one flew over Filey calling on 9th October (LG: PLM).

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Scarce passage migrant, more common in spring

1998: 14 birds were reported in May. Two in summer plumage were at Nosterfield NR from 9th to 13th May (MGM, J&SW). One was at Wombwell Ings (PAS) and 2 were at Flatmere and later North Landing, Flamborough on 13th May (MN: SAT) and singles were at Watton NR on 14th and 26th to 30th (FXM: TR). Singles were then at Beacon Ponds on 15th, 20th and 23rd (MJP *et al*); PHENR on 21st (DGH); Saltend on 24th (STH: FXM) and 29th (BR); near Filey on 27th (PLM: CCT *et al*); Blacktoft Sands on 30th and Wheldrake on 31st (CSR). In June a different bird was at Saltend on 1st-2nd (BR).

In autumn, only one was reported, from Cromer Point Pond, Scarborough, on 9th August (MF).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*

Rare migrant

1998: An adult was seen on Coatham Marsh, Cleveland on 17th to 19th August (NAP *et al*), visiting from the north bank of the Tees where it was seen

intermittently from 13th to 27th. Another adult was seen on Thorne Moors on 21st and 22nd August (WHP: BPW *et al*).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

Very scarce migrant

1998: An adult was at Filey Dams on 11th and 12th September (AD: JL: HJW *et al*).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*

Rare migrant

1998: One was seen for ten minutes at Wath Ings, and then briefly again at Edderthorpe Flash, on 15th September (MS: GJS *et al*), before being flushed by a Peregrine Falcon.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

Very scarce migrant

1998: A female briefly at "Chalk Bank", Spurn on 20th July (DPB) was the only coastal record. It was also Spurn's first for 20 years. A juvenile briefly visited Old Moor NR then Edderthorpe Flash on 6th October, where it stayed until 10th (DJB: JCC: GML: JO *et al*).

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Scarce coastal migrant and winter visitor: rare inland

1998: At the beginning of the year, one was at Hellifield Flash from 8th to 19th January. One was off Filey Brigg on 21st and 23rd January and again on 2nd February (JSa *et al*). A moulting adult was at Eccup Res on 6th and 7th August. A single flew north at Flamborough on 27th August, with one off South Gare on 17th-18th (JBD) with further singles north past Flamborough on 22nd October, and 1st and 4th November, with a bird on the sea off the fog station, Flamborough, on 5th November (PAL: BR: PC). Inland, a first-winter was in the Broomhill area from 26th to 28th October (DMW: JHG: JIM *et al*). One passed Hornsea on 3rd November.

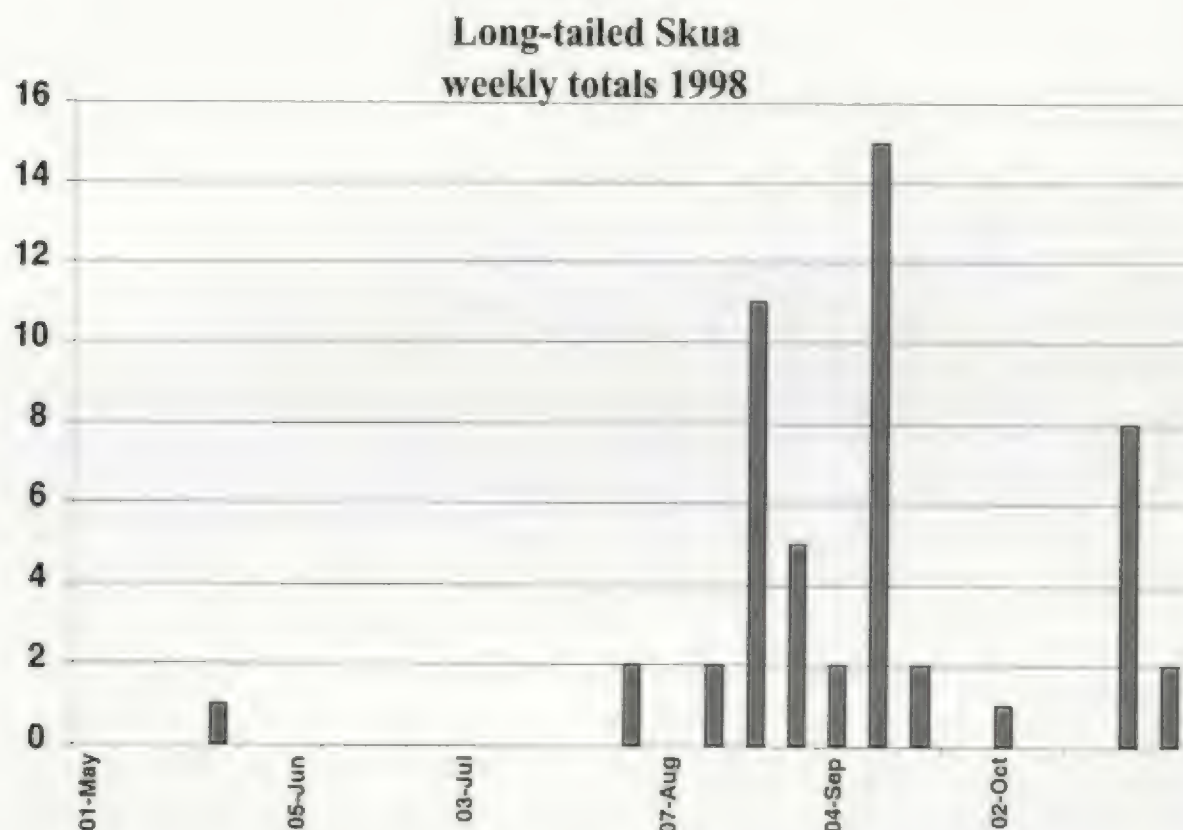
Addition to the 1992 Report: VC 63 One at Angler's CP from 15th-18th September.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Uncommon coastal migrant mainly in autumn: rare inland

1998: The only spring bird was an adult that flew north at Flamborough on 24th May. In August, at Flamborough, an adult flew south on 15th, a first-summer north on 19th, an adult and 4 juveniles south on 24th, followed by 2 juveniles on 26th, an immature north on 28th and a juvenile south on 31st. Elsewhere in August, one was off Cloughton Wyke on 3rd and adults were off Grimston on 5th, Filey and Long Nab Scarborough on 23rd, and juveniles were at Filey on 24th and 26th. In

September 3 flew south at Scarborough Marine Drive on 3rd, with one north there on 14th, and one flew south at Long Nab on 23rd. Also in September at Flamborough, a juvenile flew north on 7th, one south on 8th, an adult south on 12th followed by 13 (2 adults) south on 13th, and an adult south on 21st, whilst in October a juvenile went north on 1st and 8 juveniles south on 25th. Juveniles passed Hornsea and South Gare on 3rd November. 52 records in total, with 75 % from Flamborough.



SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*

Scarce coastal migrant

1998: Very few were in the North Sea in late autumn, with most records in August. In July a first-summer was seen off Hornsea on 16th, an adult off Flamborough on 28th and a first-summer there on 31st. In August there was a first-summer off Flamborough on 1st, a juvenile at South Gare on 6th and adults at Flamborough on 14th and Filey on 16th. A first-winter flew south at Flamborough on 23rd, 2 adults and a first-summer flew south there on 24th August and an adult flew north at Spurn on 28th. In September an adult was at "Chalk Bank", Spurn and a sub-adult seen off Scarborough on 1st, and a juvenile was seen from the "Yorkshire Belle" RSPB cruise from Bridlington on 5th. At Flamborough a juvenile was at North Landing on 14th September, and an adult flew north on 1st November.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus (argentatus) michahellis**Scarce summer visitor and migrant, becoming increasingly common*

1998: Local bird reports in Yorkshire, unfortunately, tend to publish records of the form *michahellis* without requiring a description. The records in the following account are based on these reports. No records prior to 2000 of the form *cachinnans* (known as Caspian Gull) have yet been accepted by the YNU. **BBRC** are reviewing all pre-2000 records of that form. The number of records of *michahellis* is now increasing so rapidly that it not likely to remain a fixture in this report.

Recorded in very low numbers from January to June, with a notable influx accompanying Lesser Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus* in July, peaking in August and September, and then rapidly decreasing in October. More common in the south of the county and on the outer Humber, and still scarce in the north and north-east.

The first was an adult at Hemlington Lake, Middlesbrough on 10th January, followed by singles at Thornton Moor Res on 4th and Leven bypass tip on 5th February, with the next being singles at Broomhill Ings and Dunsdale Tip, Middlesbrough on 7th March. An adult was at North Landing, Flamborough on 18th April, one was at Withens Clough, Halifax on 31st May and a first-summer flew south at Flamborough on 31st May. At Spurn, 1-2 were regularly recorded from the Humber between 22nd June and 26th September, but occasionally up to 4. Singles were at Broomhill on 4th and 13th June and up to 6 on 14th. Birds were present there on 17 days in July, with 5 on 13th. In July there were up to 6 were at Sunk Island; 5 at Thornton Moor Res; up to 4 at Old Moor NR; 4 at Fairburn Ings; 3 at Winterset Res, 3 at Cherry Cobb Sands; 2 at BPNR; 2 at Blackley Tip; 2 at Shaftholme and singles at Broadstones Res, Brough Haven, Nosterfield NR, Ringstone Edge Res, Sammy's Point Easington and Winterset CP. In August 14 were at Sunk Island on 2nd, up to 3 at Thorne Moors, 2 each at Blackley Tip, Broomhill Ings, Millhouse Green and Shaftholme (remaining to September), and singles at Carlton Marsh, Gouthwaite, Leven tip, Ringstone Edge Res, Royd Moor Res and one still at Winterset.

In September, 8 seen at Sammy's Point Easington and 6 at Sunk Island, both on 6th; 3 at Ingbirchworth, 2 at Nosterfield and there were single birds at Cullingworth, Flamborough, Gouthwaite, Lakeside, Potteric Carr, and Thornton Moor Res. In October 3 were at Langsett on 7th, whilst Gouthwaite held an adult and a fourth-winter, and singles were noted at Roundhill Res, Sammy's Point, Southfield Res, Sunk Island, Spurn, Thornton Moor Res and TLNR. In November one was at Broomhill on 8th; one at Bransholme SW on 9th; 2 at Lakeside on 14th; 2 at Southfield Res on 25th; and one at Spurn on 29th. In December adults were at Brooks Bank School, Halifax on 5th, at Gouthwaite on 6th and 25th, at Ringstone Edge Res on 12th and at Winterset on 27th.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

1998: Far more commonly encountered in the first three months of the year, with two in April and one in May. Very few in the second winter period and restricted entirely to the coast, with the first returnee on 31st October.

On the coast an adult flew south at Spurn on 31st January, and another adult was at BPNR on 20th February. First-winters were seen at Filey on 11th January, and in February at Flamborough on 7th, Scaling Dam on 14th, Filey and Flamborough on 16th, Leven bypass tip on 17th-20th and at Flamborough and Spurn on 16th and Flamborough again on 17th March. A second-winter was at Hornsea on 17th February, an adult was at Leven on 4th March with a second-summer there on 18th third-winters were at Redcar on 21st and south at Flamborough on 28th March. In April a first-summer was in Filey Bay on 18th and a first-summer was at Leven on 28th. A third-summer was at Leven on 12th and then TLNR on 16th May.

An adult was seen at Spurn occasionally between 31st October and 22nd November. In November one was at Scarborough on 9th and a first-winter flew south at Flamborough on 20th. In December, first-winter birds were noted at Flamborough on 2nd, 6th, 19th and 28th, a second- or third-winter bird was at Spurn on 4th-5th, a second-winter was in the Leven/Hornsea area on 5th-6th, a sub-adult was at Scalby Mills on 6th, 2 second-winters were at Hornsea on 19th and an adult was at Flamborough on 22nd.

Inland in VC's 63 and 64 in January a first-winter was at Broomhead Res on 6 dates between 2nd and 24th, a second-winter was at Winterset on 3rd, 11th and 18th, and at Levitt Hagg landfill first-winters were noted on 5th, 7th, 8th, 11-13th and 31st. A second-winter was present at Levitt Hagg on 4th and 14th January and 1st February and a third-winter on 21st-22 February. Also in January, second-winters were present at Southfield Res on 10th and RVCP on 11th with first-winters noted at Lakeside on 11th and 12th, RVCP on 12th, 16th-17th and 19th, and Thorne Moors on 17th. A first-winter was at Blackley tip, Halifax, from 22nd January to 5th February and an adult from 28th January to 1st February. A first-winter was at Blackmoorfoot Res from 23rd-28th January and an adult on 30th, with the first-winter present on 4th, 5th and 8th February and a second-winter on 22nd. A first-year was at Astley Lake from 12th-14th and 20th-21st March.

In the Harrogate area, although there were records on 17 dates between 20th January and 19th March at four localities, it is likely that only 8 individuals were involved as follows: Nosterfield N.R. - immature (second- or third-winter) on 20th and 23rd January, 10th and 20th February, and 19th March, and a first-summer on 10th March; Farnham GP - a first-winter from 23rd to 30th January, an adult on 25th January, one on 11th February and an adult and first-winter on 17th March; Bar Lane Quarry - an adult between 22nd February and 5th March; Staveley N.R. - a second-winter on 31st January.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus****Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant***

1998: The likelihood of duplication of records, both on the coast and from inland reservoirs, makes assessment of true numbers difficult. Birds were seen in all months except June to August, with some coastal passage noted in November/December. Inland in the south and west it is most frequent in the first three months of the year, but in VC 65 it was also recorded from September to December.

In VC 61 an adult was near Easington on 1st January and BPNR on 5th, a first-winter was at Filey from 20th January to 9th February and a third-winter was there on 27th January. At Flamborough singles were recorded on 1st and 21st January with 4 on 20th, singles on 16th and 21st February, 2 on 15th March and one on 13th April. An adult flew north at Spurn on 24th January and first-year birds were recorded there on 20th February, 23rd April and 9th May. In November at Flamborough singles were noted on 1st, 18th, 19th, 21st and 22nd with 2 on 7th and 3 on 15th. A first-winter was at Filey on 14th November and an adult was at Filey on 1st December, with a first-winter seen from 5th to the end of the year. At Flamborough in December there were singles on 2nd, 5th, 10th, 12th, 14th and 28th with 4 on 17th and 2 on 20th.

In VC 62 on Teesside, first-winters were at Hunt Cliff on 18th January, Scaling Dam on 5th March and Redcar on 8th March. In Whitby, at least one adult at the harbour during both winter periods. In Scarborough, at least 3 birds were recorded in the first period: first-winters at Burton Riggs on 4th and South Bay on 11th January, and adults were in the South Bay on 12th January and Cornelian Bay on 15th February, with a second-winter in Jackson's Bay on 30th March. At least 2 birds were noted from the autumn onwards: first-winters were at Long Nab on 8th November and in Scarborough harbour on 13th December. Adults were off the Marine Drive on 27th September, at Scalby Mills on 15-16th October and 30th November and also in the South Bay on November 22nd and December 5th, 12th and 13th.

In VC 63 in January at Levitt Hagg landfill a first-winter was present on 1st-7th, 12th, and 23rd-24th and again on 21st February. Also in January first-winters were recorded at Old Moor and Broomhead Res on 4th, Southfield Res on 10th, at Lakeside, Doncaster, on 23rd, Winterset and Broadstones Lodge on 24th, Winterset on 27th. A first-winter was present at Blackmoorfoot Res on 17th January and 3rd February, with 2 different first-winters on 24th January. In February, an adult at Broadstones Res on 13th February, a third-winter at Winterset on 20th and first-winters at Thrybergh CP on 20th and 23rd and the same bird at RVCP on 23rd/24th. In March a first-winter was at RVCP on 5 dates from 3rd-16th. On Thorne Moors a second-winter was present on 18th April. A pale first-winter was at Winterset on 30th December.

In VC 64 not all records have been received, but one was reported from Farnham GP on 25th and 30th January and first-year birds were recorded at New

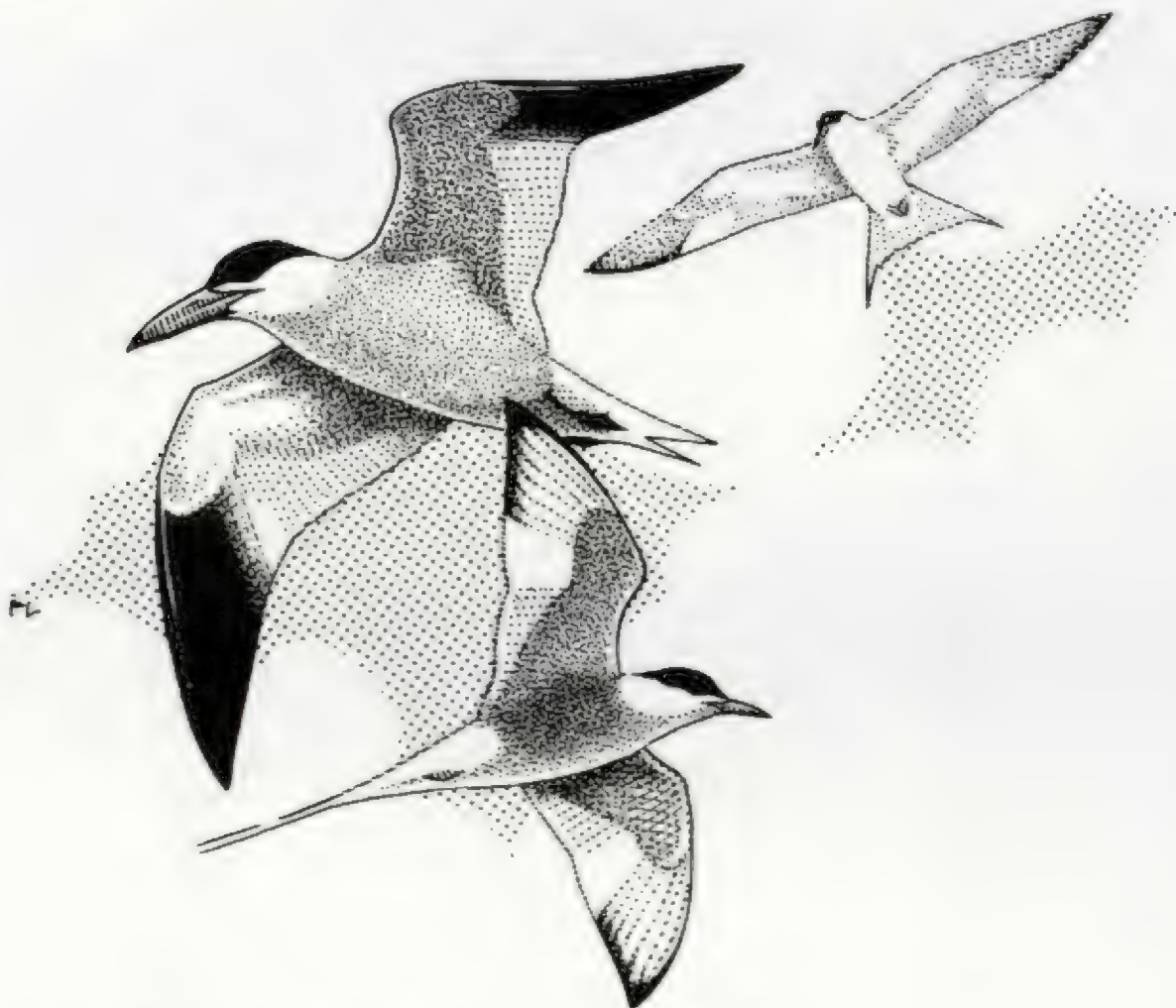
Swillington Ings on 22nd February, 1st, 7th, 20th-21st March, 3rd and 18th April, and an un-aged individual there on 24th April.

In VC 65 recorded at two sites on 15 dates from January to April and September to December, all singly and mostly immature birds (first- to fourth-winter). Nosterfield NR - 11th January, 20th and 22nd February, 30th March, 6th to 9th April, 20th to 24th September, 2nd to 6th October, 6th December and 20th to 26th; Bar Lane Quarry - 14th to 26th January.

CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia*

Rare vagrant

1998: One was first seen on Thorne Moors on 21st June (ML: JMR: PCR), and later visited Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea on 27th June (LJD: NPi *et al*), flying south at Spurn before probably returning south via Thrybergh Res on 2nd July (PB). A second individual was seen at Tophill Low NR on 3rd August (AAH: FXM), having been previously tracked through Nottinghamshire and later Northamptonshire.



ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

Scarce coastal migrant, most frequent in late summer/early autumn

1998: An adult was seen at Spurn on 2nd June and 3 flew north at Flamborough on 28th, with another north on 29th. Further adults were seen in July at

Flamborough with one north on 15th, 2 south on 27th and 2 north on 31st. Single adults were seen almost daily at Beacon Ponds NR, Kilnsea from 22nd to 26th July, around South Gare from 25th July to 9th August and at Filey Brigg on 29th. An adult was at Scalby Mills, Scarborough on 2nd August, with 2 at nearby Cromer Point on 19th. At Spurn, one was seen on 2nd, 2 on 12th, one on 13th, 2 on 14th, one on 17th and 2 on 18th while 2 adults and a juvenile were found in the high tide roost at Filey on 30th August. In September, one passed Long Nab, Scarborough and 2 were at Scalby Mills on 2nd, and there were 2 at Filey on 9th and one on 10th at Spurn.

WHITE-WINGED (BLACK) TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Rare vagrant

1998: A moulting adult was seen in the morning of 2nd August for an hour at Old Moor Wetlands before leaving to the north-east (JHG: SCR: DMW *et al*). A juvenile was seen at Dewsbury SF on 11th October (JHa).

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

1998: One flew north off the Marine Drive, Scarborough on 29th October (RHA).

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

Passage migrant and winter visitor, occasionally abundant

1998: In January one passed Spurn on 1st with 2 on 3rd and 4 on 4th; 2 were in South Bay Scarborough on 4th and 6 were at Saltburn on 17th, with singles passed Spurn on 18th and at Flamborough on 19th and 20th, and 2 there on 23rd and 25th. One was in the Bay at Filey on 25th. Flamborough also recorded singles on 1st and 3rd February and a single on 22nd March. One was recorded at Spurn on 27th May and 2 on 28th.

There were no more then until an unusually early one passed Filey Brigg on 14th September. In October 13 flew south off Marine Drive Scarborough on 2nd and singles were off Flamborough on 21st and 22nd and Spurn on 26th, with 4 on 30th and 8 on 31st. During November more were seen with 70 off Flamborough, 28 off Spurn, 6 north at Filey and 9 north at Long Nab on 1st. The next day 21 were recorded at Flamborough and singles north at Cromer Point, Scarborough and Spurn, then 15 north at South Gare, 10 at Filey, 10 at Flamborough, 58 at Spurn and a remarkable 845 south at Staithes (WIB) on 3rd. There were 15 more records from Flamborough during November, one at Spurn on 9th, 7 flew north at Marine Drive Scarborough on 16th and 2 south at Filey on 21st. Lastly, singles were recorded at Filey and Flamborough on 6th December.

The only inland record came from Bedale on 24th November.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escapes

It is assumed that records in Yorkshire refer to escapes from captivity, due to the distance from the nearest feral populations, but all reported sightings will be published to monitor the situation.

1998: Singles were at Menston (VC 64) on 4th June, TLNR on 12th July and Anglers CP on 6th September, with 2 in the Wansford area of the Hull valley on 27th November.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*

Rare vagrant from southern Europe, usually in spring

1998: An excellent year for this species, with the first at Blacktoft Sands for an hour on 5th April (NC: AF: EW) a typically early date for this species. There then followed a run of records from Spurn, with birds on 7th June (AD: DRM *et al*), 8th June (DPB), 21st June (DPB: JHa: AAH *et al*), and 21st July (RBo: DPB). These birds were associated with a good passage of Swifts.

LITTLE SWIFT *Apus affinis*

Rare vagrant

1998: One flew north-west over Boulby Cliffs (VC 62) at 9.05 am on 10th May (MAB: SF). The second accepted County record, the previous one being at Flamborough in July 1988. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 8: 15.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

Scarce vagrant from southern Europe, annual in recent years

1998: One seen at Patrington, then Holmpton near Withernsea on 28th May was seen to fly south at Spurn on 29th (NAB: HMF, *et al*). One remained at Thornwick Bay and North Landing, Flamborough from 14th to 16th June (TDC *et al*) and was seen flying south over Beacon Ponds NR, Kilnsea and Spurn on 17th (MJP: DPB) before returning north. One, possibly the same bird, was reported flying north and calling over "Old Fall", Flamborough, on 20th June (PAL), and one flew south at Spurn on 23rd, briefly alighting on wires at the lighthouse.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

Very scarce vagrant from the continent, annual in recent years

1998: One was reported from Bellflask Quarry near Ripon on 12th July (CS) and one at Thorngumbald on 6th October (AH).

EURASIAN WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Scarce coastal passage migrant: rare inland

1998: Singles in spring were only reported from Spurn on 3rd, singing at Boulby on 16th, and from Flamborough on 20th May.

In autumn, at least 24 birds were reported, when a sizeable fall on the coast at the end of August/early September was associated with high pressure over

Scandinavia and light south-easterly winds. Singles were at Pickering, Filey and Flamborough on 30th August, with one at Spurn on 2nd/3rd September and another from 3rd until 5th. Also in September, a single was at Flamborough on 3rd at Head Farm and 2 at Whitby on 4th-5th with 3 there on 6th. Singles were at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough and Saltburn and 2 were at Flamborough on 5th; one was at Buckton on 5th-6th; one at South Gare from 5th-7th; and singles at Scalby, Filey, Flamborough (at Flatmere), and Easington and 3 at Spurn on 6th. Singles were at Spurn on 8th and 13th; at Sammy's Point, Easington on 14th; at "Chalk Bank", Spurn on 21st-23rd, and at Head Farm, Flamborough on 26th. In October one was at "Old Fall", Flamborough on 2nd and 3rd, one at Head Farm on 6th, one at Spurn on 6th, with an inland record from Wheldrake Ings on 4th.

GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Very scarce coastal passage migrant: occasional winter record

1998: One was at Flamborough in the field behind the fog station on 4th May (JTH: PAL *et al*) with one at Spurn on 11th. Another was reported from Flamborough on 2nd and 3rd October (AMA: PAL *et al*).

HORNED LARK *Eremophila alpestris*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

1998: 4 were reported from Barmston on 1st January, with a single there on 24th, and 5 were in cliff-top fields near Cromer Point on 20th January. The only February record was one at Bran Sands on 3rd. One was at Flamborough Head on 1st and 2nd March, with 7 at Grimston on 23rd. Inland, one was unusually at Grimwith Res near Grassington from 21st March until 9th April. One was at Beacon Ponds NR, Kilnsea on 4th April, 5 were seen at Spurn on 19th, 10 at Cromer Point on 23rd and singles at Boulby and South Gare on 26th. In May 3 birds were at Spurn on 6th and singles at Flamborough on 7th and South Gare from 11th to 16th. A very late bird was at Spurn from 28th May until 4th June.

There were very large numbers in autumn. 2 were at Spurn and one at Beacon Ponds NR on 3rd October, 8 at Spurn on 5th, 15 on 17th and then 45 at Beacon Ponds by 19th. Singles were at Flamborough on 5th and 6th, with 10 on 7th, 11 on 8th, 13 on 9th and 4 on 10th, with 12 on 20th followed by 16 on 22nd and 14 on 23rd and 24 on 25th. Numbers then decreased to 5 on 28th, but increased again to 26 on 30th and 15 on 31st. Elsewhere singles were at Grimston on 4th and 19th with 6 there on 31st and 8 there on 1st November. 2 were at Boulby on 8th with another there on 20th; 8 were found at Newbiggin, Filey on 17th October, increasing to 16 by 19th; 3 at South Gare on 24th and 15 at Long Nab, Scarborough on 31st. Inland, one was at Nosterfield NR on 31st October (SW). At Long Nab there were still 9 present on 1st November, with one on 10th, one on 15th and 2 on 17th, while at Flamborough there were still 16 on 1st November, 14 on 4th, 24 on 6th and 21 on 7th, with the last being 4 on 10th, although 10 were at Danes Dyke on 22nd. It is difficult to assess how many birds were involved at Flamborough, as birds seemed to be moving through (PAL). 18 were at Spurn on

1st November, 3 at Hornsea on 8th, 14 south at Spurn on 11th, 6 at Easington Lagoons on 17th, 9 at Port Mulgrave on 19th, increasing to 50 by early December and one at Filey on 29th and 30th. December records included 2 at Thornwick Bay on 10th and 7 at Beacon Ponds NR, Kilnsea on 14th.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Scarce coastal passage migrant in autumn: rare inland

1998: There were 2 spring records, these being one at Flamborough from 30th April to 3rd May (PAL: MN: PJW *et al*) and 2 at Spurn on 9th May (DPB).

In autumn, one was seen and heard over Easington cemetery on 23rd (MJP); one was on Long Nab, Scarborough on 25th September (JHe: SW) and one was in the Spurn area from 27th to 1st October. Singles were at Filey on 29th September (MTO) and 1st October and at Spurn 3 birds were present on 1st with one to 4th. Also in October singles were at Sammy's Point Easington (AAH: AR), inland at Sunk Island, Patrington on 11th (GED: WFC) and at Flamborough on 30th (NP), with another there on 5th November (JMB).

BLYTH'S PIPIT *Anthus godlewskii*

Alteration to 1994 Report: VC 61 One at Flamborough Head on 30th April is now considered inadequately documented by **BBRC** (*British Birds* 93: 567)

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*

Rare coastal passage migrant

1998: One was found at Spurn at the car park north of the Point on 6th September (GF *et al*) later moving to the seaward side of "Chalk Bank" where it remained until 7th.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni*

Rare coastal passage migrant

Addition to 1994 Report: VC 61 One was at Flamborough Head on 22nd and 23rd September (JMc: VL).

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

Rare coastal passage migrant

1998: One on South Gare on 25th September (NAP) was soon followed by one at Kilnsea on 27th that was later seen at Spurn on 27th and 28th (GED: DRM: RS *et al*). Two more flew south on 28th (CJB: NAC: PID *et al*), while one at Spurn on 1st October (DPB: AAH: MFS *et al*) was presumed to be the bird from 27th-28th

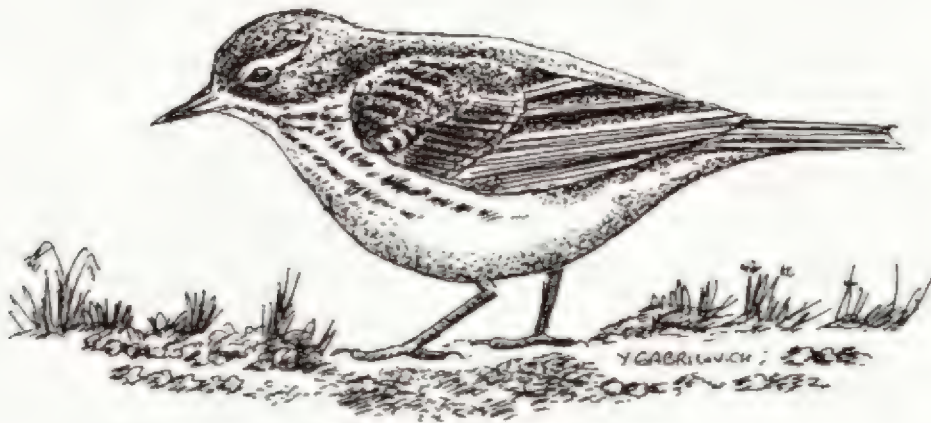
Addition to 1992 Report: VC 61 One at Sammy's Point, Easington on 23rd May, present 22nd- 26th (per LJD).

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

1998: One bird wintered on the coast at Barmston, and singles were also seen at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 14th January and again on 29th. 2 or 3 birds overwintered at New Swillington Ings, with 3 still present at the Lemonroyd Sewage Works near there on 1st April. A single at Wombwell Ings from 31st January was joined by a second on 10th February, with 3 there on 21st and 23rd March. Also in March one was at RVCP from 8th to 10th with further singles at Leeshaw Res, Haworth on 9th and 10th, at High Eske, near Beverley on 16th, and one was recorded at Hickson's Pool, Fairburn, from late March to 12th April. The last were 2 at Aldwarke SF on 5th and one reported from Saltend, Hull on 7th April.

Wintering birds returned to New Swillington Ings in mid-October and to Wath Ings and Blacktoft in early November, with up to 5 at the latter site by the end of the month.



GREY-HEADED WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava thunbergi*

Rare vagrant

1998: A male at New Swillington Ings on 27th April (GR: GH) was an exceptionally early record. A male was at Filey Dams on 12th May, a male flew north at Spurn on 13th, alighting briefly on the scrape field, and a female was on Scarborough Road flash near Filey on 31st May. A bird showing characteristics of this form was in the totem pole field at Filey on 3rd September.

WHITE-THROATED DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

"Black-bellied" Dipper *Cinclus c. cinclus*

Rare vagrant

1998: A "Black-bellied" bird stayed on Scalby Beck, Scarborough, from 24th January until mid-March (DBY: MF *et al*). Another, probably a first-winter bird, at the seaward end of Danes Dyke on 3rd November (AMA: PAL) was the first Dipper of any form at Flamborough. The eleventh and twelfth county records of this form. An account of the Scalby bird is in *Yorkshire Birding* 7: 32.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Rare breeding summer visitor in the south and rare passage migrant

1998: Only 6 singing males held territory on Thorne Moors this year. One was heard singing and seen briefly in riverside bushes at New Swillington Ings on 2nd May (PRM). The only coastal reports were as follows: one at Flamborough from 13th-16th April (NP: PAL *et al*), one at Flamborough on 1st May (PAL) and one at Spurn on 9th.

Addition to the 1991 Report: One trapped at Spurn from 6th-14th October was accepted by BBRC as one of the eastern races *L. m. africana/hafizi* (JC: BRS *et al*).

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*

Scarce coastal passage migrant: occasional rare breeding species

1998: On Thorne Moors a single male "White-spotted" Bluethroat *L. s. cyanecula* was present from 29th March to 30th June (ML: PCR *et al*). A bird (presumably "Red-spotted"), was reported from South Gare on 13th May (SDK). In autumn one at South Cliff, Flamborough on 5th September was described as a winter-plumaged adult male (PJW: TDC). A male was in Kilnsea by the Riverside Hotel from 27th September to 4th October, one was on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 7th October and another at South Gare on 7th-8th (AEH: JBH).

COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Eastern races Saxicola t. maura/stejnegeri

Rare coastal migrant

1998: A first-winter male was found at Filey, settling in Parish Wood, from 8th-12th October (LG: PLM *et al*).

Addition to the 1993 Report: A male "Eastern Stonechat" *S. t. maura/stejnegeri* was at Whitby from 10th to 13th May (TJB: RSS: AWh *et al*).

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina*

Rare vagrant

1998: One of uncertain age was found at Whitestone Point, Whitby on 26th September (JAB: RSS), the second county record.

PIED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe pleschanka*

Rare vagrant

1998: A first-winter male was found on the Humber shore at the Point at Spurn on 2nd October (RAF: MET) staying until the 5th. The fourth county record and Spurn's third. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 7: 116-117.

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti*

Rare vagrant

1998: A well-watched bird, thought to be a first-summer male, was at Thornwick Bay, Flamborough on 5th and 6th April (PC: PAL *et al*). The sixth county record. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 7: 48-49.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

Scarce visitor

1998: A bird which was heard calling but never singing, therefore presumed to be a female, was at Blacktoft Sands from 22nd March until end April (JMB *et al*). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* Vol. 7: 11).

AQUATIC WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola*

Rare coastal passage migrant

1998: One was along the "Canal Zone" at Spurn on 6th September (PA: KLK: JWh *et al*).

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*

Scarce passage migrant: occasional rare breeding species

1998: An influx of this species and Icterine Warblers occurred in late May, associated with heavy overnight rain and north-easterly winds. One was found at Spurn on 29th (PRM); one was at South Gare from 29th-30th; one at "Old Fall", Flamborough on 29th staying until 1st June; one at Flatmere, Flamborough from 29th May to 3rd June and one at Filey on 29th (LG: JH *et al*) with another there on 30th (JMT *et al*). Further singles were at Hawsker near Whitby on 30th, at Lighthouse Road, Flamborough from 30th until 4th June, and at Selwick's Bay Flamborough on 31st.

In autumn, one was in "Old Fall ", Flamborough, on 28th September, and one was trapped at Whitestone Point, Whitby on 3rd-4th October.

BOOTED WARBLER *Hippolais caligata*

Rare vagrant

1998: A first-year bird was trapped in the gorse field at Flamborough Head on 27th September (TDC: LC, FXM: PAL *et al*).

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*

Scarce coastal passage migrant, more common in autumn

1998: The first was at "Old Fall", Flamborough, on 13th May, with another there on 29th. Two in song were on South Gare from 28th to 30th May (JBD: DAM), with 3 at Filey on 29th (one still there on 30th) and further singles at Flatmere, Flamborough on 30th and the Timoneer, Flamborough on 3rd June.

In September, 2 were at Spurn on 1st with one staying until 4th; one was at Cromer Point, Scarborough on 3rd; one was at Robin Hood's Bay on 4th, whilst at Flamborough different singles were seen on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th, with 2 on 25th.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*

Rare migrant, commoner in spring: annual in recent years

1998: All records were from Spurn. A male was seen on the "canal zone" on 12th and 13th May (MJP *et al*), while another male of uncertain age was seen at the Warren from 27th September to 8th October, being trapped on 29th (DPB *et al*). A third bird, a first-winter, was seen in Kilnsea on 28th September (NPW).

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

Scarce coastal passage migrant, very rare in spring

1998: A singing male in "Old Fall hedge", Flamborough Head on 30th May was a delightful surprise. In autumn, singles were at Spurn on 11th and 25th August, Beacon Lane Kilnsea on 14th and 15th, Filey on 29th and Grimston on 30th. In September, birds were found at Spurn on 2nd; Hawsker near Whitby on 5th-6th; Jackson's Bay, Scarborough and Holmpton on 6th; Spurn on 13th, 21st and 26th-29th and Flamborough on 26th and 28th September. In October, one was at the "Wire Dump" Spurn, on 10th and 14th.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Rare coastal migrant, mostly in autumn (4 spring records)

1998: One was at Flamborough Head on 3rd and 4th September (PAL: SMc: NP *et al*). Another was seen at Ness Point, Robin Hoods Bay also on 4th (TJB: RSS).

PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Scarce autumn migrant: rare inland

1998: A relatively poor year for this species. An early bird was at Spurn from 4th to 6th (LJD *et al*), with a second there on 6th October (BRS). Singles were in "Old Fall", Flamborough on 6th and 7th October (IF: MN: PJW: *et al*) and 3rd-4th November (AMA), and at Filey from 4th to 6th (HJW *et al*).

YELLOW-BROWED LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Scarce autumn passage migrant: rare inland

1998: The first of the year arrived at Kilnsea and Spurn on 21st September with up to 5 birds reported there from 25th-27th. One was at South Gare on 23rd; Filey hosted a single from 23rd to 26th, with 2 on 26th; Atwick one on 25th; singles were at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 26th and 27th; Holmpton on 26th; Long Nab, Scarborough on 26th and Ravenscar and Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 27th. At Flamborough one was found on 24th remaining to 25th September at Greenacres, one was on the outer head on 27th; 2 were in "Old Fall" and further singles were at North and South Landings on 29th, with singles at "Old Fall" on 30th, and South Landing and "Old Fall" on 1st and 2nd October. 2 were at Long Nab and another 2 were at Filey on 1st October; singles at South Gare and Atwick on 2nd, Ravenscar and Spurn on 4th, at Danes Dyke from 11th to 21st, and at Filey on 18th. One was inland on Thorne Moors NNR on 10th (WHP), and the last was at Kilnsea on 4th November.

HUME'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus humei*

Rare coastal migrant in late autumn

Following a review of this species, birds described as a race of Yellow-browed Warbler *P. inornatus* in previous reports have now been given full species status.

Addition to the 1990 report: VC 61 One at Aldbrough from 10th to 14th November (PIH: AFJ: JMc *et al*).

Addition to the 1991 report: VC 61 One at Kilnsea from 29th October to 2nd November (AJB: JMc).

Addition to the 1993 report: VC 61 One trapped at Flamborough on 5th November, remaining until 8th (PAL *et al*).

Addition to the 1994 report: VC 61 One at Flamborough Head from 11th to 15th November (JCL: JMc *et al*).

Addition to the 1995 report: VC 61 One at Hornsea from 21st February to 16th March (TDC *et al*).

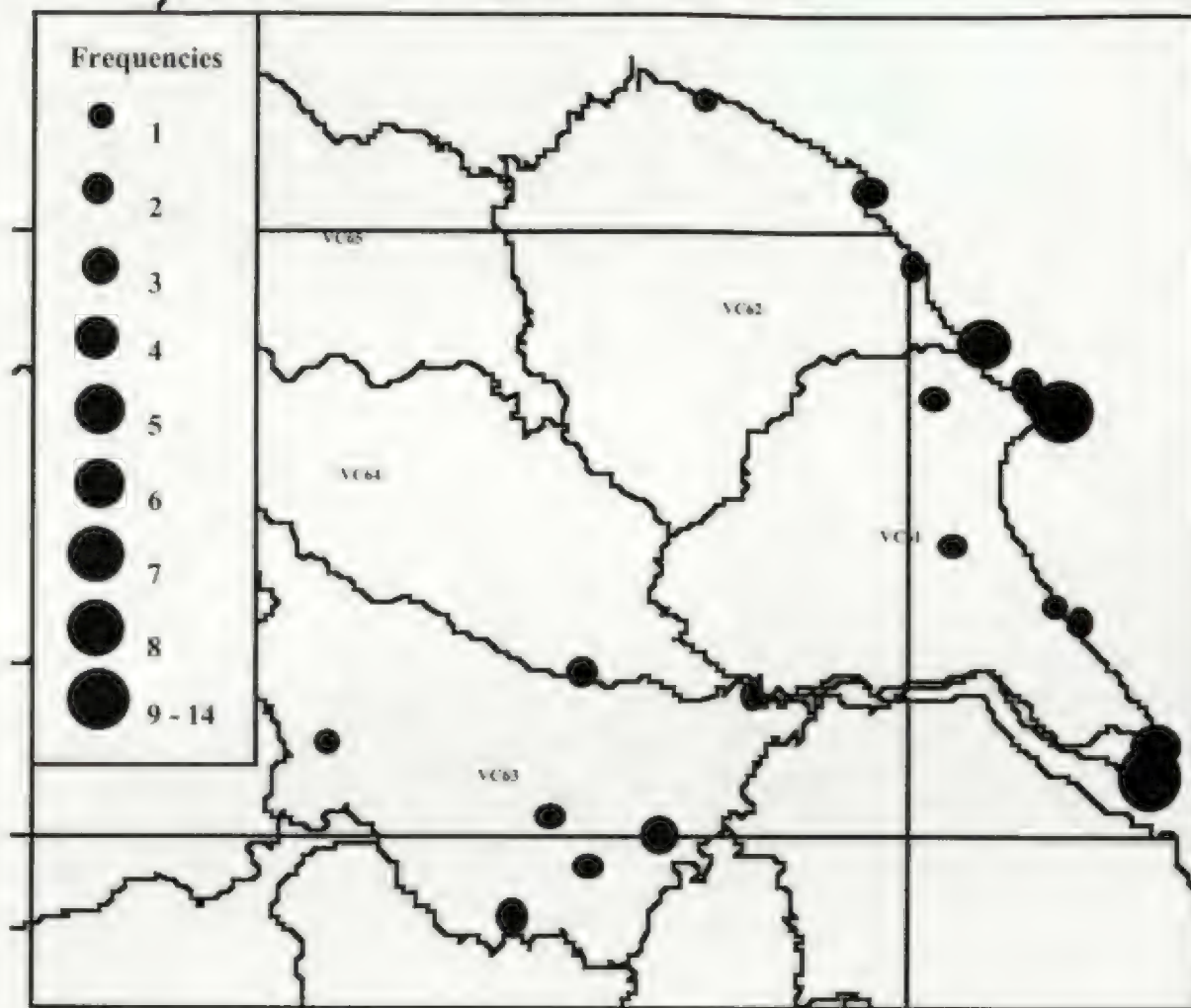
FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant: bred in 1995

1998: One was in Danes Dyke, Flamborough, on 24th January. Inland, one was at Netherwood, Wombwell from 11th to 20th February, with 2 on 21st and 22nd and one remaining to 10th March. One was in the Sheaf Valley at Millhouses, Sheffield, from 18th February to March. One was in a Goole garden on 28th March, when one was trapped at Spurn. 3 arrived at Kilnsea on 29th, together with a record spring fall of Goldcrests. 3 were still at Spurn on 4th April, with 2 present on 7th. Further singles were there on 24th/25th and on 26th, while one was also seen at Flamborough Head from 18th to 25th April. One was singing at Kilnsea on 13th May, with a late migrant at Spurn on 1st June.

In autumn, singles were at Spurn from 24th to 28th September with 2 on 28th and a 3rd from 26th to 29th. In October, singles were at Spurn on 1st to 3rd with 2 on 3rd; Filey on 2nd; Aldbrough on 9th; at the Blue Bell, Spurn and in "Old Fall", Flamborough on 11th, and at the Point, Spurn from 13th to 23rd. Inland, one at Winterset on 12th was seen again on 5th November. Elsewhere in November 2 were at Filey on 3rd November, joined by a 3rd from 4th to 7th with one remaining until 9th. Singles were at Bempton and Kilnsea on 4th; Spurn on 6th; Flamborough on 6th and 11th; Langsett Banks on 15th and Woolley Woods, Sheffield on 20th. Wintering birds were found inland at Hirst Wood, Fairburn Ings and Potteric Carr in December.

Firecrest 1998-1999



RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

Scarce coastal passage migrant, rare in spring

1998: A first-summer male was singing at East Newton near Aldbrough on 12th May and another first-summer male was singing at "Old Fall", Flamborough Head on 17th May.

In autumn, singles were at Sammy's Point, Easington on 6th September. In Spurn area, one on 20th, then 3 in Kilnsea on 22nd/23rd, a 5th bird at the Point on 23rd, a 6th at the Warren on 24th, and a 7th in "canal hedge" on 25th, with one bird still present on 27th. Singles were seen at Flamborough in South Landing on 24th and 26th September, in "Old Fall" and near the raptor point on 28th, by the fog station on 29th and in Flatmere on 1st October. One was in Easington on 3rd.

EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

Scarce passage migrant mainly in spring: bred in 1992

1998: Spurn recorded a series in May, with singles at "Chalk Bank" on 9th, at "Wire Dump" on 16th/17th and at the Point on 19th, whilst singles flew south on

20th and 29th. Inland a male flew over Staveley NR on 17th May (PTT) and one was singing in poplars at Wentworth on 25th May (DHo: MJP)

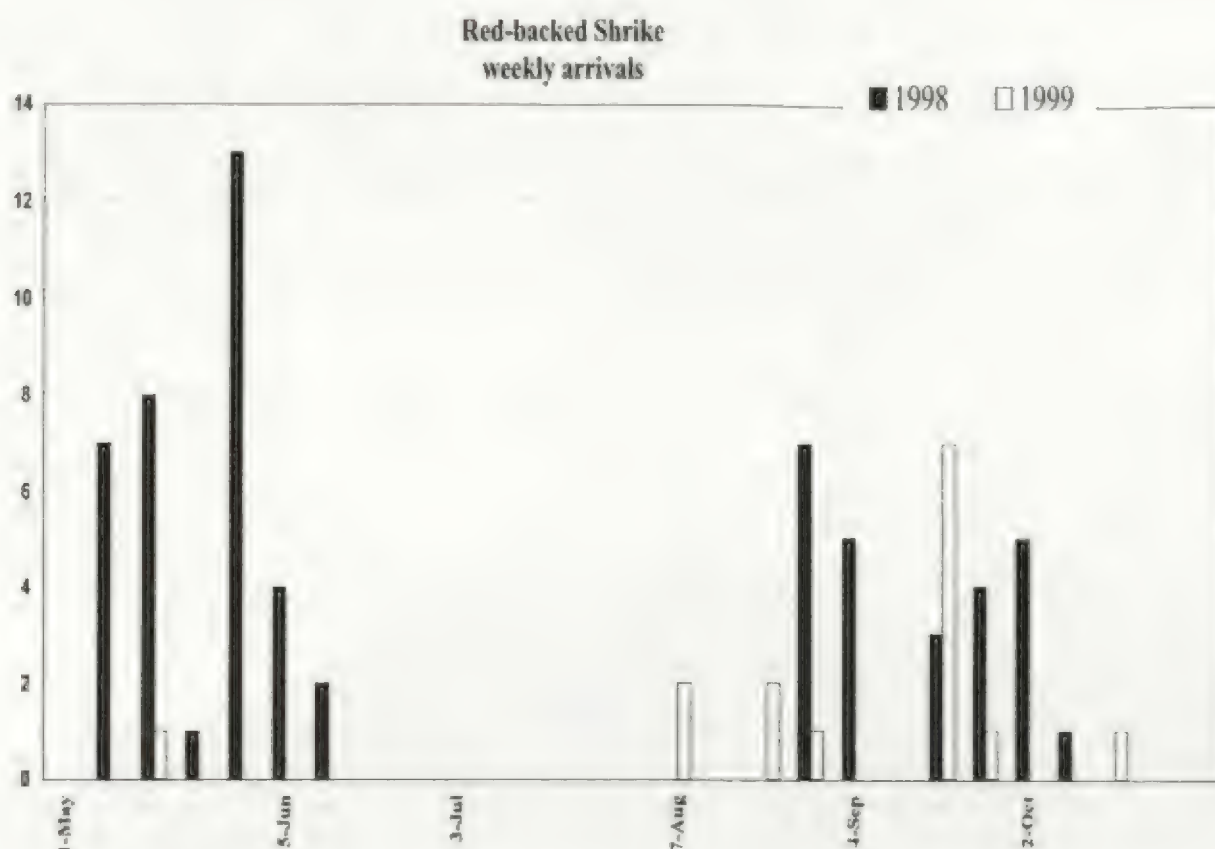
RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

Scarce passage migrant

1998: There was an exceptional spring passage of this species, with perhaps 35 reports from across the county associated with the easterly winds that prevailed from 11th May, and a second separate influx at the end of the month. A male was found on South Gare on 11th May remaining to 13th, with another male there on 29th-30th. Two males were at Spurn on 11th, with another male on 13th, a female on 19th, and a male on 21st and another male on 29th/30th. A female was at Sammy's Point, Easington on 12th and 13th, with males there on 20th and 29th, and different birds in Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 17th and in Easington on 22nd. A male was at Filey from 12th to 14th and a female there on 29th. A female was at Flamborough on 13th with another female on 29th to 31st, and a male on 31st. A male was at Ravenscar on 16th; a male at Kilnsea on 17th; a male at Patrington on 17th and 18th; a male at Tunstall on 21st; a male at Gilbert Hill, Langsett on 29th and males at Brotton near Saltburn and Cloughton near Scarborough on 30th and 31st. In June, a female was at Filey on 1st; males were at Flamborough on 3rd, 5th and 8th, and a female on 4th; a male was at Sammy's Point, Easington on 4th; a female was at Spurn on 6th with 2 on 14th, and a male was at Old Royston, Barnsley on 6th.

Autumn passage was also good, bringing the year's total to 60. The first was a juvenile was at Kilnsea from 1st-6th September with one at Filey on 3rd and 2 on 4th and 5th and one staying until 8th. One was at Bempton on 3rd; 2 juveniles were at South Gare and singles were noted at Flamborough and Spurn on 4th, the latter remaining until 10th. Singles were reported from Scarborough on 5th, Flamborough on 6th, Scalby Mills on 8th, Kilnsea on 22nd and 24th, Easington on 24th-31st with 2 there from 29th and 3 were still present near the cemetery on 3rd October. At Flamborough there were singles on 24th-26th, and another on 28th September, with the last there on 2nd October.

Elsewhere in October 2 were at Spurn from 1st to 7th with one remaining to 10th. Singles were at Whitby on 2nd; at Filey from 3rd to 9th; at Sewerby on 4th, at East Newton on 6th and 7th and North Frodingham Carr on 11th.



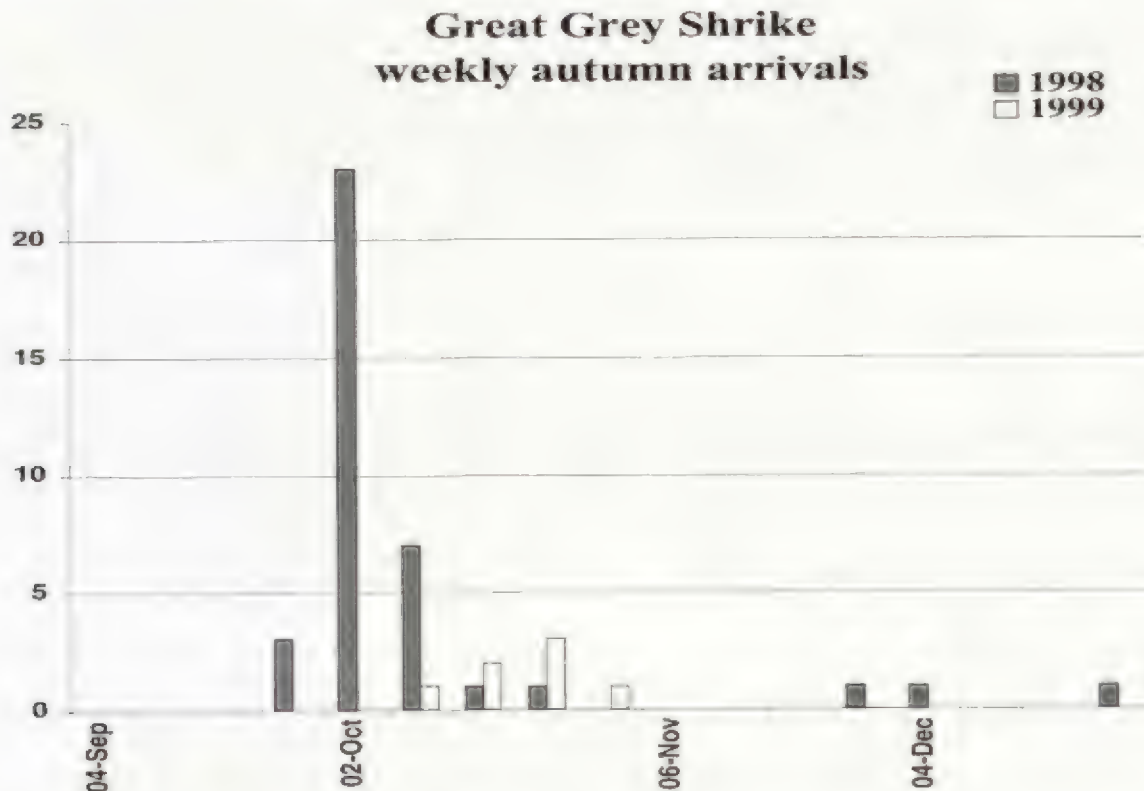
GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

1998: The first of 43 recorded in an exceptional year was found in Troutsdale in VC 62 on 11th January, with possibly the same bird in Dalby Forest near Pickering from 17th February until March. 2 were at Flamborough on 11th April with one again on 14th-15th, and a third on 21st and 27th. Another was at Bempton from 16th to 19th April. One found at Flockton near Wakefield on 18th April was presumably a passage migrant.

In autumn there was a notable influx. The first was at Sandsfield Grange, near Brandesburton on 1st and 2nd October and at least 2 were at South Gare from 1st October to 8th. One was at Sammy's Point, Easington on 2nd/3rd with 6 in total in the Easington/Kilnsea area between 3rd and 11th, while one trapped at Spurn on 3rd was joined by another to 11th, with a 3rd on 7th and one south on 19th. Flamborough had 2 on 5th October, followed by 3 on 6th when singles were at Saltend, Hull, East Newton, Filey, Grimston and Tunstall. One was at Whitestone Point, Whitby from 6th-7th and 4 were at Flamborough on 7th when 2 were at Buckton. Singles were at Long Nab, Scarborough on 8th; Pickering on 9th; Thorne Moors on 9th-10th; Hebden Bridge on 10th; Walshaw Dean on 10th and 11th; Marton near Middlesbrough on 11th and Rossett Acre Ponds near Harrogate on 22nd. At Flamborough there was one on 8th, 2 on 9th and singles on 10th, 11th and 26th, with perhaps 7 different birds involved.

A wintering bird was at Goole Docks from 29th November and another at North Duffield Carrs on 5th and Wheldrake on 21st. One at Bubwith on 29th may have been a different bird.



SOUTHERN GREY SHRIKE *Lanius meridionalis*

Rare vagrant

Addition to the 1989 Report: VC 62 One at Bishop Monkton on 31st October and 1st November (P. K. Bowman, R. Evison and C. Slator *et al*) was identified from a photograph as a probable first-winter *L. m. pallidirostris* and accepted by BBRC. The first Yorkshire record.

EUROPEAN SERIN *Serinus serinus*

Scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn, with 2 winter records

1998: A male was singing at Spurn at the Warren on 16th June (BRS) and a female was on the wires at "narrow neck" on 21st (MFS).

ARCTIC REDPOLL *Carduelis hornemanni*

Rare migrant and winter visitor

Addition to the 1995 Report: VC 63 A first-winter at Wath Ings on 29th December (SE: SDS *et al*).

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Scarce passage migrant: occasional very rare breeding species (first in 1992)

1998: First-summer males were seen at Flamborough Head on 12th and 13th, at Robin Hood's Bay on 30th May (JAB: RSS), and at Flamborough on 1st, 3rd and

7th June. An immature male was singing at South Gare on 29th and female/immatures were at Spurn on 7th and near Staithes on 16th June.

An intriguing juvenile was at Filey on July 19th to 26th (JMT *et al*) with an immature/female there on 1st September (NPS *et al*). Immatures were at Spurn on 26th to 28th September and 2nd October, and another immature was at South Landing, Flamborough on 2nd October.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*

Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn

1998: An immature was at Aldbrough on 28th-30th August (AFJ: PRG). In September an immature was in the Bay brambles, Flamborough, on 1st (AMA: PAL) and another bird was at "Chalk Bank", Spurn the same day. One was at Filey on 3rd and 4th (PC *et al*); one at Boulby on 4th (MAB: SF); one at Spurn on 5th and 6th (LJD *et al*) and another at South Landing, Flamborough from 28th September to 2nd October (DIMW: PAL *et al*).

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn

1998: A spring bird was briefly at Flamborough Head on 30th May (AF: BR). In autumn, there was a significant influx into the county. 2 were at Spurn from 25th to 29th September, with one remaining to 30th (NAB, LJD, EW *et al*). One was nearby at Sammy's Point, Easington on 3rd October (AA: DJS) with further singles at Flamborough from 3rd to 5th (IF: FXM *et al*), Whitestone Point, Whitby from 3rd to 7th (TJB: BB: JAB: RSS) and Coatham Marsh on 6th (MAB: SF *et al*).



LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*

Very scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn

1998: One was found at Spurn on 28th September (CJB *et al*). A first-year bird was in the gorse field at Flamborough Head on 7th October (AG: PAL: DIMW).

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*

Rare vagrant

1998: A male was photographed at Ainley Top, Huddersfield in late May (Mrs JM). The county's third record.

CALENDAR 1999

January

Conditions were generally mild and wet. 7 Great Bitterns were overwintering, with the usual drake Ring-necked Duck and 6 Great Grey Shrikes. Up to 3 Great Northern Divers, 4 Slavonian and 3 Red-necked Grebes were in Filey Bay at the beginning of the month, joined by a Grey Phalarope on 7th, whilst 2 Slavonian Grebes remained at BPNR. A few Little Auks were noted on the coast.

February

Gales from the north-west on 4th and 5th with snow on higher ground brought a touch of winter. Rough-legged Buzzards were more in evidence, with a handful of sightings from the North York Moors and Pennines. The highlight of the month was a Ring-billed Gull at Filey on 26th.

March

It was cold and wet at the beginning of the month, but generally mild thereafter, with south-west winds and rain leading to flooding in places. Common Cranes, always an early migrant, were noted with 3 at Sunk Island from 3rd and one at Flamborough. An unusual record was of a Leach's Petrel at Scalby Mills on 9th. A brief warm spell mid-month did not satisfactorily account for the Egyptian Goose that passed through Broomhill and Filey. Light southerlies at the end of the month brought the first White Stork to the east of the county from 24th, and a few Spoonbills.

April

The light south-easterlies continued. 2 more Common Cranes were noted, this time at Filey on 4th. A Great Egret at Broomhill on 17th was soon followed by another bird of southern provenance, Yorkshire's first Crag Martin on 18th at Anglers CP then Pugney's CP. Cold north-westerlies then set in, but by the end of the month there were light easterlies and the first wave of summer migrants arrived, including returning Common Nightingales.

May

The easterlies continued to the 8th, and brought a few birds of note. Five Red-rumped Swallows passed south at Spurn between 3rd and 15th. A Purple Heron was at New Swillington Ings on 3rd, an Alpine Swift at Hornsea and a Black Kite near Whitby on 8th and on 10th another Purple Heron was reported, from Thrybergh CP and a Woodchat Shrike at South Gare. Two Tawny Pipits followed, with 3 Red-throated Pipits before the end of the month. Always a rare bird in the county, a Thrush Nightingale was trapped at Spurn on 16th.

Cooler northerlies from 17th to the end of the month did not deter European Bee-eaters from making an appearance, with one at Filey on 19th and 10 in the Spurn area on 23rd. A couple of Icterine Warblers were noted on 19th at Flamborough and 20th at Filey, a Red-necked Phalarope was at Thornton Moor Res from 22nd -24th and a Leach's Petrel at Spurn on 30th.

June

Easterlies at the beginning of the month brought a Western Bonelli's Warbler to Spurn on 2nd, (with a Long-tailed Rosefinch), and a singing Great Reed Warbler took up territory at Leventhorpe from 10th to 5th July. A Red-footed Falcon was at Thorne Moors on 12th and 13th, and northerlies brought a Soft-plumaged Petrel past Flamborough on 12th. Towards the end of the month there was a small influx of Common Rosefinches.

July

The first two weeks were warm and calm, with light winds, becoming south-westerlies from 12th-22nd. An Alpine Swift was at Flamborough on 21st. A north-westerly on 22nd brought Cory's Shearwaters to Filey and Spurn, with one at Flamborough the next day and 2 more records before the end of the month.

August

Warm dry weather prevailed until the third week. White-winged (Black) Terns were very much in evidence with birds seen at Fairburn and Pugney's CP at the beginning of the month and two Filey and one at PHENR later. A brief north-westerly brought 12 Great Shearwaters to the coast with 9 at Flamborough and 2 at Spurn on 20th. A Great Bittern at Filey on 22nd was unexpected, as was a Wryneck at Dewsbury SF the same day. Rain from the east on 24th-25th brought a fall of Wrynecks, Icterine and Barred Warblers to the coast. The month ended with a Bridled/Sooty Tern entering Filey Bay on 31st.

September

Generally hot conditions throughout the month, with winds generally from the west. Two Blue-winged Teals at Coatham Marsh on 9th and Pectoral Sandpipers at Blacktoft and Spurn reflected the origin of some birds in Britain at this time. North-westerlies from 17th to 20th resulted in Leach's Petrels at Spurn on 19th and Filey on 20th, and a Black Guillemot at the latter site on 22nd. There was a small drift of migrants on the coast from the 19th, with a number of Red-backed Shrikes, 2 Red-breasted Flycatchers, a Hoopoe at Filey on 20th and the first Yellow-browed Warbler on 27th.

October

South-westerlies prevailed for the first two weeks. At least one Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Blacktoft and Edderthorpe Flash on 2nd and 9th to 13th, a county first Short-billed Dowitcher was seen at Bran Sands from 3rd to 7th. Other Nearctic waders included an American Golden Plover at Old Moor from 6th to 14th and a juvenile Least Sandpiper at Blacktoft from 17th to 23rd. A spell of easterlies from 15th to 21st brought a range of migrants including the first Pallas's Warbler on 15th at Filey, 2 Red-breasted Flycatchers and a Great Grey Shrike at Spurn, a Radde's Warbler at South Landing Flamborough on 16th and 17th, Rosy Starling there on 18th and Isabelline Shrike on 20th. An immature White-tailed Eagle was thought to have arrived at Burton Constable at this time. Although light south-westerlies returned from 23rd to the end of the month, a Pallid Swift was found at Flamborough on 25th, with 2 there on 26th/27th, a Rough-legged Buzzard

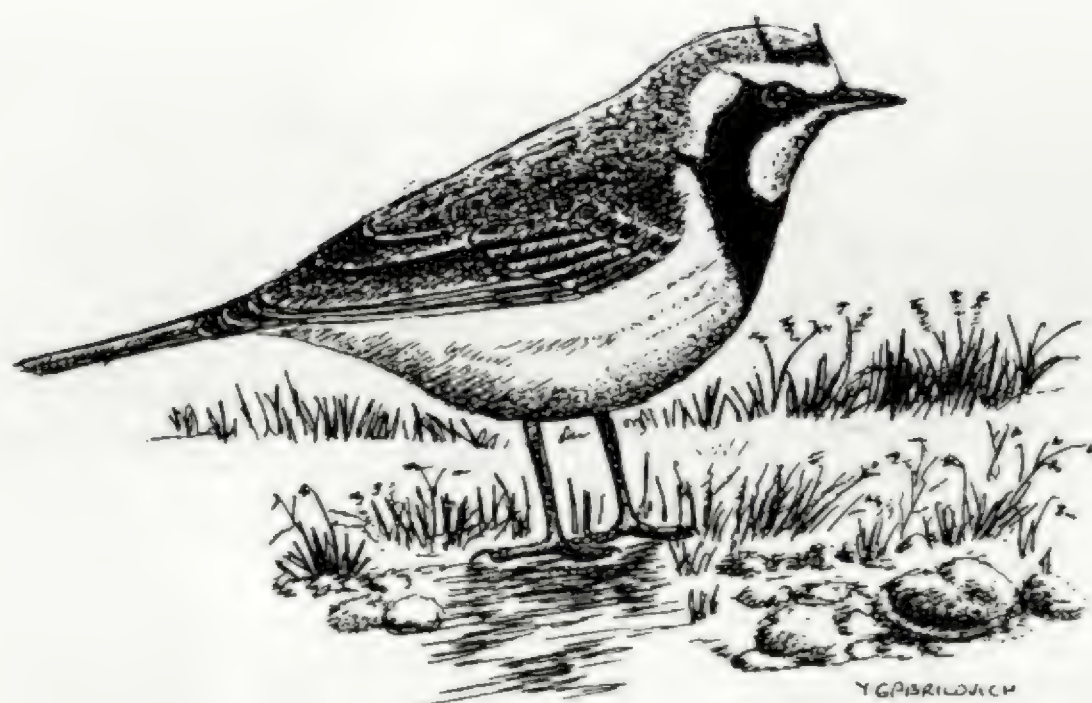
was at Spurn on 25th and a Dusky Warbler was in Locke Park Redcar from 26th to 28th.

November

Light south-westerlies continued at the beginning of the month and little of note was reported, although there was a good passage of Great Northern Divers and quite a few Little Auks were seen. A "Black-bellied" Dipper at Spurn on 14th and a Greater Short-toed Lark at Aldbrough on 26th and 27th were the highlights.

December

Mostly wet weather and westerly winds, December 1999 was best remembered for the Ring-billed Gull at Scalby Mills on 31st.





Short-billed Dowitcher

Greatham Creek, Teeside October 1999

J. Harriman



Long-tailed Skua

Redcar Golf Course, September 1999

J. Harriman



Yellow-browed Warbler

Spurn, September 1998

I. H. Leach



Pallas's Warbler

Spurn, October 1999

M. Ashforth



American Golden Plover

Old Moor, October 1999

I. H. Leach



"Black-bellied" Dipper

J. Harriman

Scalby Mills, February 1998



Short-toed Lark

M. Ashforth

East Newton, November 1999



Ring-necked Duck J. Harriman
Anglers CP, November 1998



White-tailed Eagle I. H. Leach
Burton Constable, November 1999



Thrush Nightingale

Spurn, May 1999

M. Ashforth



Thrush Nightingale
Spurn, May 1999

M. Ashforth



Great Reed Warbler
Leeds, June 1999

J. Harriman



Crag Martin
Pugneys CP, April 1999

I. H. Leach



Crag Martin
Pugneys CP, April 1999

I. H. Leach



White-tailed Eagle
Burton Constable, November 1999

J. Harriman



Red-breasted Flycatcher

Spurn, September 1998

I. H. Leach



Pallid Swift

J. Harwood
Flamborough, October 1999



Red-backed Shrike

Spurn, June 1998

M. Ashforth



Least Sandpiper

Blacktoft Sands R.S.P.B., October 1999

I. H. Leach



Least Sandpiper

Blacktoft Sands R.S.P.B., October 1999

I. H. Leach



Rustic Bunting

Spurn, September 1998

I. H. Leach



Barred Warbler

Spurn, September 1998

I. H. Leach

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1999

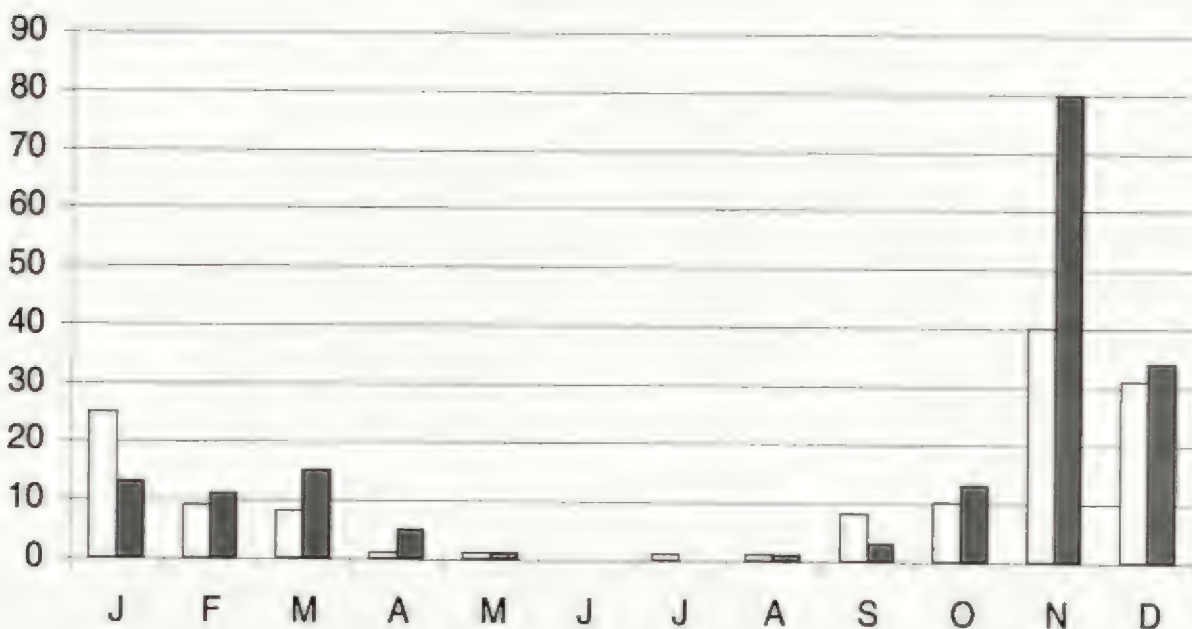
BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

Uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor: rare inland

1999: Some passage was noted in March and a more substantial movement occurred in November/December, although some of the latter totals probably included daily feeding movements off Flamborough. Two were reported off Barmston on 1st and singles were off South Gare from 7th to 9th January, and on 15th and 27th. One was inland at Lockwood Beck Res near Guisborough on 14th January. Singles were off Marske/Saltburn on 19th and 31st, with one at Sandsend on 22nd, one in Filey Bay on 28th and 2 at Flamborough and one at Scarborough on 31st. During February, singles were in South Bay Scarborough on 5th and 6th and at Saltburn on 13th. Flamborough had a further 7 singles in February, when singles were on the sea at Hornsea on 21st and in Cayton Bay on 22nd. 3 were at Cloughton on 8th March while one frequented South Gare from 11th March to 4th April. There were a further 9 reported from Flamborough in March, including 4 on 14th, a summer-plumaged adult at Spurn on 18th and one at Barmston on 21st. 3 more singles were reported from Flamborough in April, with one at Hawsker on 30th, and a late one past Long Nab, Scarborough on 23rd May.

Black-throated Diver
monthly totals

□ 1998 ■ 1999



Autumn passage began with one flying north at Long Nab, Scarborough on 30th August, a summer-plumaged adult north at Flamborough on 12th September, one at Spurn on 15th and one past Long Nab Scarborough on 30th September. 12 were seen at Flamborough on 9 dates in October, with one at Spurn

on 5th, whilst in November there was a series of records from the coast. Most birds (60) were noted at Flamborough, with 2 on 1st, 5 on 4th, 10 on 7th, 7 on 9th, 9 on 10th and 7 on 23rd. Singles passed Whitestone Point, Whitby on 13th and Long Nab Scarborough on 14th and 5 flew north there on 20th. Filey had one on 16th while Spurn had 1-2 regularly between 7th and 18th, and Hornsea singles on 13th, 14th, 20th and 21st. In December 3 passed Flamborough on 4th and 4 on 5th contributing to the monthly total there of 22. 3 passed Redcar on 7th with one there on 26th; one was off South Gare on 18th; singles passed Hornsea on 12th and 20th and Spurn had singles on 4th, 11th, 12th and 26th. Finally one was on Scaling Dam Res from 18th December to the year-end.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor: rare inland

1999: Nationally there has been a steady increase in this species during the 90's and this trend was reflected locally. Two remaining from 1998 were in Filey Bay until 24th February, with one there regularly until 5th April. Up to 4 were at South Gare from 9th January to 15th April and one was off Marske on 24th. Slightly inland, one was on Burstwick Ponds from 28th to 31st January. 11 were seen on 7 dates at Flamborough in February, with 2 on 17th and 19th and 3 on 21st. One was at Scalby Mills on 24th February followed by four March records for the same area, with another 2 on 6th, and singles on 11th and 25th. Also in March, singles were off South Gare on 4th and Saltburn on 5th, with 2 singles at Flamborough. In April, apart from the remaining Filey bird, one was at Flamborough on 16th.

The first autumn record was one in Cayton Bay, Scarborough on 11th August, with the next over a month later at Spurn on 27th September. On 4th October, singles passed South Gare and Port Mulgrave/Staithes. Elsewhere, there were singles off Spurn on 16th, Whitestone Point, Whitby on 25th and 30th, and Scarborough and Filey on 31st October. There were 10 on 9 dates at Flamborough in October and 32 on 18 dates in November, with 3 on 8th and 19th, 5 on 20th and 3 on 27th. Good numbers were reported in November from north of Hornsea and in Filey Bay, with 4 at the latter location on 6th, and 3 the next day, one remaining to the end of the month. One flew north past Long Nab on 6th; 2 were off Cromer Point, Scarborough on 8th; 2 flew north at Hornsea on 11th; 2 north at South Gare on 12th; 3 at South Gare on 13th when 2 were off Whitby, a summer-plumaged individual flew north at Filey and one flew north past Hornsea; one was off Tunstall on 20th and one flew north at Hornsea on 21st. At Spurn singles were recorded on 7th, 13th and 20th November. 10 flew past Long Nab, Scarborough on 4th December, with a record 20 south and 2 north past Filey Brigg on 5th, with 4 north there on 10th and one in the Bay until 20th. One lingered off South Gare from 11th-23rd. 13 were reported at Flamborough in December, with 3 on 7th, while Spurn had singles on 6th and 29th.

Inland, one was at Southfield Res on 8th November, one at Otley GP from 13th to 28th and an immature at Pugney's CP from 30th November to 28th December. This same individual was seen briefly at Anglers CP on 29th.

YELLOW-BILLED DIVER *Gavia adamsii*

Rare vagrant

1999: An adult in almost full summer-plumage seen drifting north off Filey Brigg on 12th November, was later relocated off Primrose Valley on 14th, remaining in Filey Bay until 17th (CCT: GW *et al*). A detailed account is in the *Filey Brigg Report 1999: 65*.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor

1999: 1-2 were seen off Marske/Saltburn from 1st to 31st January and 2 were seen on several dates from 1st January to 28th March in Filey Bay, with a third on 20th/21st February. One was in South Bay Scarborough from 5th-8th February and 2 were reported from Flamborough Head on 6th with 3 on 11th. One was at Fairburn Ings from 24th February to 3rd March, then at nearby Methley Quarry from 7th March until 1st April. A single was off Long Nab on 25th March. A summer-plumaged bird was on Hornsea Mere on 8th May, with another inland on Otley GP on 16th. Summer-plumaged birds were also at Flamborough on 15th May and 27th June.

In August one was in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 2nd and 4 singles were at Flamborough on 3 dates from 8th, with one north at Filey on 20th and one at South Gare on 31st. One flew north at Long Nab, Scarborough on 9th September, and another was reported from Flamborough on 26th. In October, singles were off South Gare on 19th, at Flamborough on 24th and Blacktoft Sands on 29th. In November one was off South Gare on 1st and one was in Filey Bay from 14th-18th. Flamborough had a further 6 on 5 dates, and Spurn had singles north on 13th and 20th. In December singles were off Scarborough on 6th, Filey on 11th and 31st and there were 3 singles at Flamborough during the month. Away from the coast (slightly), 2 were on Hornsea Mere on 13th December.



SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor

1999: The two present at Beacon Ponds NR, Kilnsea from 1998 remained through to 30th March. Up to 3 were in the Scarborough area in January and 4 in Filey Bay that month, with occasional reports from there of 2 until 16th, with one to 27th March. One was at Flamborough on 7th January and one was on the River Derwent at East Cottingwith on 31st when one was also reported off Marske. In March singles were at Scalby Mills on 1st, Cayton Bay on 3rd, South Gare on 4th, on Scaling Dam Res on 7th and off the Marine Drive, Scarborough on 22nd. In April, one was off South Gare on 8th and one was at Burniston, Scarborough on 26th.

A summer-plumaged bird reported on the River Aire between Methley and Castleford Lock on 13th August could not be found the next day. Singles were at Flamborough on 14th September, 31st October and 28th November with one in Filey Bay from 13th November and presumably the same on 12th December. Inland one was at Fairburn Ings from 10th to 12th. Finally one was off Redcar on 27th December.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare recent breeding species: scarce visitor and passage migrant

1999: The first of the year were singles at Southfield Res and North Bay, Scarborough on 1st April, closely followed by singles at Thrybergh CP on 2nd and North Cave GP from 2nd to 8th, Bolton-on-Swale GP on 3rd and 4th and Skelton Lake from 3rd to 5th. A pair of long-stayers at Thorne Moors was first seen on 8th April, though breeding did not take place. There were 3 together at Hornsea Mere on 9th-11th, with singles at Welton Water on 14th and BPNR from 17th to 19th. A summer-plumaged bird was on the sea at Spurn on 24th April (4th Observatory record). In May 2 were at TLNR on 6th, then 11th to 19th and 2 were at Brough airfield marsh on 15th.

The first pair arrived at Wheldrake on 4th April, and a further 2 pairs arrived at Wheldrake and 2 pairs at North Duffield Carrs on 7th, but the latter moved on next day. Although nest platform-building was observed at Wheldrake, there were no records after 15th, and this was the first year after colonisation of the site in 1992 that birds have failed to breed, possibly due to rapidly falling water levels. These birds may then have dispersed to other sites in Yorkshire.

In July, a juvenile was at Beal Carrs on 4th-5th, while in August the only coastal record was one south past Marine Drive, Scarborough on 9th. Inland in August, juveniles were at Thrybergh CP on 6th, Southfield Res on 24th, with 4 at Blackmoorfoot Res on 26th, while one remained at Nosterfield NR from 25th through to 14th September, with 2 there on 5th. Elsewhere in September one was at Bolton-on-Swale GP on 12th and 3 were on Hornsea Mere from 17th to 19th, with another juvenile/immature at Mickletown Ings and Methley Quarry on 18th and 19th. It is possible that breeding had taken place somewhere nearby. In October 2 were present at Fairburn until 18th, with one remaining until 25th, one at Astley

Lake from 2nd to 10th and on Skelton Lake on 24th. 2 were on Hornsea Mere on 3rd November, one at Malham Tarn on 7th, and one flew north at Flamborough on 19th November.

"SOFT-PLUMAGED PETREL" *Pterodroma mollis/madeira/feae*

Rare vagrant

1999: One that flew north at 11 am at Flamborough Head on 12th June showed characters of Fea's Petrel (BR). A full account is contained in *Yorkshire Birding* 8: 72-73.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

Scarce coastal summer/autumn vagrant

1999: Singles were seen at Flamborough on 3rd, 23rd and 25th July. Elsewhere, singles flew north past Filey (LG: GM: DW) and Spurn (MGS: MFS *et al*) on 22nd, south at Spurn on 27th (NAB) and north there on 28th (NAB). In August, singles were noted south at Spurn on 6th (IDW: DPB: BRS: NAB), and at Flamborough on 10th and Staithes on 21st (MRKA: WIB: MCo).

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis*

Very scarce coastal vagrant, mainly in late summer/autumn

1999: 9 flew north at Flamborough Head on 20th August (MJB: TDC: GED *et al*) This was the second highest daily count for Flamborough, the highest being 13 on 20th September 1978. 2 were seen at Spurn on the same day (DPB: MJP: MFS: MGS), with one south from Easington cliffs on 21st (JW).

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Scarce coastal migrant, mainly in late summer/autumn

1999: At Flamborough, singles were reported on 4th, 6th, and 24th July, with 2 on 7th. There were 19 on 10 dates in August, with 5 on 21st and 3 on 22nd. At Filey, a single was seen on 14th August, with one past Port Mulgrave and 2 past Long Nab, Scarborough on 21st; 2 past Port Mulgrave and Staithes on 5th September and one past Long Nab on 9th September. 7 were reported from Flamborough on 6 dates in September, with 4 singles in October and late stragglers on 7th and 10th November. Spurn had just one, south on 6th November.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Scarce coastal migrant and non-breeding visitor to the coast: rare inland

1999: Birds were tape-lured at Flamborough in July as follows: singles on 3rd and 14th, 3 on 10th, 4 on 16th. Trapping at Filey in July resulted in 27 caught during July and early August, with 10 on 6th July. The only sea watch birds were one in August off Long Nab, Scarborough on 10th and one flying north on 21st at Flamborough.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Very scarce coastal migrant: rare inland

1999: One was reported at Scalby Mills on 9th March (RHA), with another at Spurn on 30th May (PKG *et al*), both these on unusual dates. Singles flew north at Spurn on 19th and south at Filey on 20th September (CCT: HJW) in strong easterly winds. 2 flew south at Spurn on 21st October and singles passed south at Filey on 6th (PLM *et al*), north past Flamborough (PAL *et al*) and Spurn on 14th and past Hornsea on 19th November.

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

Scarce migrant and winter visitor

1999: At least 7 birds over-wintered in the county from the previous year, with reports from Potteric Carr (two); Blacktoft Sands; Hornsea Mere; Thorpe Marsh; Pugney's CP and Coatham Marsh, Redcar. One was reported from Winterset Res on 12th March.

One was heard booming from the canal near Thornton Ellers in late March and early April, with presumably another heard at Wheldrake on 23rd and 27th April and again on 8th May. Fish kills at Wheldrake in 1998 and 1999 will have had an adverse effect on the potential prospects for re-colonisation by this species.

One dropped into Filey Dams on 21st August, and one was at Faxfleet on 24th. In the second winter period, singles were seen in the Derwent Valley high over Wheldrake village on 5th and at North Duffield Carrs on 11th October and in flight from Pontefract Park on 6th. Birds returned to Thorpe Marsh and Potteric Carr in early November. Finally, single birds were recorded along the Pocklington Canal at Melbourne in December and at Fairburn Ings on 26th December.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Scarce vagrant in slowly increasing numbers

1999: One flew north from Lincolnshire over Broomfleet on 18th March, and one was at Blacktoft Sands between 28th and 30th May, with another or the same there from 8th August to the end of September. One was at Spurn on 17th and 18th August whilst another appeared or re-appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 1st October, remaining to the 5th. In December one was seen at Farnham GP, Knaresborough on 20th and one at Crabley Creek, Brough on 26th.

GREAT EGRET *Egretta alba*

Rare summer vagrant

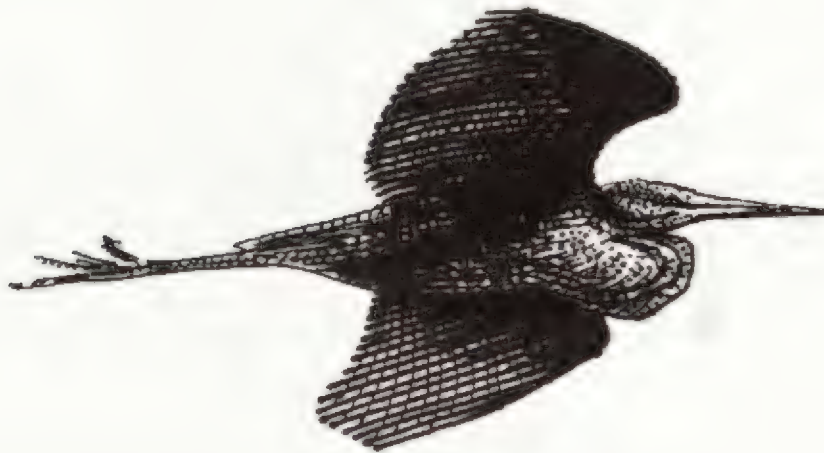
1999: One made a brief appearance at Broomhill Flash on 17th April (JHG: J O'M: DMW *et al*). A bird considered to be a non-breeding adult was at Beal Carrs on 29th June (JC). The 15th and 16th county records.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

Rare vagrant

1999: An adult was at New Swillington Ings on 3rd May (MBa), one flew south at Thrybergh Res on 10th May (MAS: PL), and a juvenile was at Otley GP on 18th September (RHP).

Addition to the 1995 Report: One at Stocksbridge on 4th June (MCW).



WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

Scarce vagrant: kept in captivity

1999: The status of White Stork in Yorkshire continued to be clouded by the presence of free flying birds in the Harewood bird collection, which made regular tours of the county in spring and summer. The following record(s) are thought to refer to birds of wild origin. A first-summer bird was first seen near Bridlington at Ruston Parva on 24th March, and was later seen at Crossgates, Scarborough on 28th (GR), photographed at Cayton Carrs on 29th-30th and later from 2nd April was at Wold Newton where it remained until 12th. One in the Kings Mill area at Driffield on 11th April was probably the same bird, as perhaps was one flying north towards Harwood Dale, Scarborough on 28th. It is not known whether last year's un-ringed young bird was still present at Harewood at the time.

Two birds seen over Leeds on March 17th were undoubtedly from Harewood. These, or at least one, started a tour of the county in April, being sighted at Bingley on 3rd; two together at Worsbrough Dale, Barnsley on 6th; singles at Bretton Lakes, Wakefield on 8th; Wombwell on 12th-13th; Headingley GC on 13th; Bretton Lakes on 25th; Cawthorne Park and the Washburn valley on 27th; Harrogate GC, Farnham GP and Staveley NR on 28th and Washburn valley on 29th. In May it was at Barnsley on 1st; east at Staveley NR, then Potteric Carr and Thorne Moor on 3rd; Staveley on 8th; Bretton Lakes on 14th, Castle Howard from 30th into June, and Wombwell Ings/Edderthorpe Flash on 29th June.

2 birds of uncertain origin but apparently un-ringed wandered the county in late June/July, one putting in an appearance at Edderthorpe Flash and Broomhill Ings on 29th June, Winterset on 1st August, Edderthorpe Flash from 13th to 17th, with one briefly visiting Hull on 14th, and possibly the same at Knotford Nook on 15th. Two flew south-east over Rossington, Doncaster on 27th, over Castleford on 28th, and 2 adults were seen at Edderthorpe on 28th.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

Scarce migrant and summer visitor

1999: One was at Went Ings near Thorne on 23rd April, then at Blacktoft Sands from 25th to 28th, with an adult at Brough airfield on 28th. Two flew up the Humber at Kilnsea on 16th May and one flew south at Spurn on 24th May. One appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 26th, staying until 27th, when a juvenile was present on the Humber at Spurn for most of the day and 2 more were seen briefly at Coatham Marsh on 27th, later to be re-located north of the Tees. A single flew south at Flamborough on 5th June.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*

Irregular winter visitor and passage migrant

1999: 2 west at Scarborough on 3rd November were not racially identified.

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser (fabalis) fabalis*

1999: 7 were reported from Wheldrake on 2nd February, with one or two lingering with the Greylag flock. 175 arrived at North Duffield Carrs towards dusk on 13th, leaving on 14th. 20 were at Ellerton on 20th, with 11 at North Duffield Carrs on 25th. 5 remained at North Duffield on 1st and 2nd March, 3 were on Sunk Island on 5th and 5 on 6th, and one flew south down the Humber on 15th. One remained at Wheldrake from 5th to 19th April. In autumn, the only records were one at Paul Clough on 3rd October and one near Easington on 7th November.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser (fabalis) rossicus*

1999: An exceptional flock of 76 on Sunk Island on 6th March were presumably displaced birds from the continent (DC: GED).

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis*

Rare vagrant: kept in captivity

1999: (One at High Eske NR on 29th May had a blue ring on its right leg, and is treated here as an escape).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escape: has very occasionally bred

1999: One was at Studley Park Lake, Ripon on 16th January and 9th February. One that flew west through Old Moor Wetlands on 13th March was presumably the

same seen later that day at Filey Dams, then Bempton. One was present with Mallards in a field at Fairfield on 9th May.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

Rare vagrant: feral/escapes confuse status

1999: A pair was resident at a private pond at Hotham (VC 61) and may account for sightings at nearby North Cave GP on 5th August and it is thought the same bird was at nearby Brough Haven from 16th August to 18th September. 4 flew south at Spurn on 27th August, one was at Bretton Lakes on 15th and 30th September and presumably the same bird was at Anglers CP on 16th October.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escapes

1999: The first was at Wibsey Park lake on 3rd January, with 2 males at Elland GP on 10th and one on the canal at Brighouse on 18th January. 2 were at Brighouse on 8th February. Two males were at Elland GP in February, and one was subsequently reported there from March to September. A male was on Silsden Beck from 17th February to 7th March and again on 2nd May. Another drake was on Lindley Wood and Swinsty Res on 13th March, a pair were at Lee Dam on 28th March, with further singles at Horton Bank CP on 16th April and 28th May. A pair was observed nest prospecting at Drebley on 23rd April. One was present on Shibden Park Lake in June and September, with singles on the River Aire at Myrtle Park on 6th October, and on the canal at Brighouse on 3rd December. A female joined the long-staying male at ELLAND GP on 21st December. In the east of the county, a drake was at Watton NR on 22nd and 28th November and another was at Throxenby Mere, Scarborough from 23rd November to the year-end.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*

Rare vagrant

1999: Two eclipse drakes were seen and photographed at Coatham Marsh, Redcar on 9th September (MAB *et al*).

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

Scarce vagrant, occasional feral breeder but feral populations elsewhere confuse status

1999: Birds of suspect origin were reported from the west of the county, with the first, a female also reported in 1998, at Winterset CP in January. A hybrid bird was at Yeadon Tarn on 30th March and 22nd April. A duck was at Fairburn Ings on 25th June and from 24th July to 5th September and a hybrid drake there from 20th April to 31st May and again on 29th July. An eclipse drake was at Wheldrake on 14th July, and a juvenile was present at Thrybergh CP from 26th September to 13th October. Probably the same bird was at Swillington Ings on 19th October. A hybrid was seen at Thrybergh CP in October and an immature there on 13th November, with a drake at Pugney's CP in December. Of interest in forming a view

as to the likely origins of county records, a pair reared 2 young at Walkington Pond in East Yorkshire.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

Scarce vagrant

1999: A drake was at New Swillington Ings from January 2nd, then at Fairburn Ings on 31st. It was then seen at various sites in the Aire Valley before returning to Hickson's Pool at Fairburn on 27th March. It commuted between Fairburn and New Swillington Ings from May to August, and was present in eclipse plumage at New Flash, Fairburn up to 8th August. It returned to Winterset on 22nd August where it remained until the end of the year (PS: GJS *et al*). A second drake was at Rother Valley CP on 31st August and a female was at Hay-a-Park GP, Harrogate, on 5th December (PVI).

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

Uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor: rare inland

1999: One at Methley Quarry, Castleford from 1998 remained until 27th February, although it visited Fairburn on 17th January. 2 immatures were at Hornsea Mere from 9th to at least 21st January, one was in Filey Bay on 22nd and another there on 18th February, with one at Flamborough on 21st February and one in Filey Bay on 28th March. A drake was inland at Edderthorpe Flash on 16th April and an unusually late pair was in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 12th June.

On the coast in autumn, there was a light passage in October and a more distinct peak in November on 11th. One flew south at Spurn on 22nd October and Flamborough had 2 that month with 29 recorded from there on 10 dates in November and a peak of 12 on 11th. Also in November, one flew past Long Nab on 4th and 2 passed there on 6th; 4 flew north at Atwick and Spurn on 11th, with 7 north at Teesmouth on 12th and 8 on 14th. 2 flew north at Spurn on 15th; 3 were off Redcar on 16th, and one flew north at Spurn on 20th, when one passed Long Nab and 2 flew north at Hornsea. 5 were in Filey Bay on 27th November and one was in South Bay, Scarborough on 28th. In December 3 were at Flamborough on 3rd, 2 were at Filey on 5th, with one north that day at Hornsea, one flew north at Spurn on 15th December and 2 were off Redcar on 26th December.

Autumn/winter inland records included 2 at Southfield Res from 14th-18th October, with one present until at least 9th December. Singles were at Beacon Ponds NR from 30th October to 28th November, at Bransholme SF Hull from 2nd to 12th and at Winterset Res on 16th November. In December, one was on Wraggs Pond in the Loxley Valley, Sheffield from 5th to 14th.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor: rare inland

1999: It was a relatively scarce bird apart from during a noticeable November passage. In the early months one passed Filey on 9th February, one was reported from Spurn on 18th March and there were 3 on 2 dates in March at Flamborough.

Passage began in July with one at Flamborough on 23rd July and 4 in Filey Bay on 31st. In August singles were at Spurn on 1st and Flamborough on 10th and 3 flew north past Marine Drive Scarborough on 20th and Whitestone Point the next day. In September one was at Spurn on 15th, 4 flew south at Filey on 18th and 3 were recorded on 2 dates that month at Flamborough. Filey had 2 on 4th October and at least 3 remained in Filey Bay, whilst 2 flew south past Long Nab on 19th. Flamborough had 17 on 4 dates in October, with 12 on 16th. In November, a single passed Long Nab on 6th, 10 were at South Gare on 10th, 5 flew north at Hornsea on 10th, 6 flew north at Atwick on 11th, and 10 were just south of Whitby Harbour on the sewage outfall on 13th, with 2 north at Whitestone Point the same day. 3 flew north at Ness Point, Whitby and one north at Grimston on 14th, 5 were in Filey Bay on 16th with 4 remaining to the end of the year, singles flew past Long Nab and Hornsea on 20th, and singles were in Cayton Bay on 21st and in Whitby Harbour on 29th.

Flamborough had 49 on 12 dates in November with 10 on 11th and 9 on 12th. 1-3 were regularly recorded at Spurn, with a high count of 10 on 15th November and 5 on 24th December. 20 were recorded at Flamborough on 9 dates in December. Up to 4 were regularly seen off South Gare/Saltburn during the last 4 months of the year.

Inland, a female/immature remained on Southfield Res from 23rd November to 18th December.

EUROPEAN HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Rare breeding species and scarce migrant

1999: A pair was present during the breeding season at a site in the county, but their breeding attempt was again unsuccessful. Migrants included one north at Spurn on 8th May and another south on 22nd; one in-off at Ness Point, Whitby and one near Robin Hood's Bay on 28th and one south at Barnside Moor on 29th. One was seen in flight near the Flouch Inn, Langsett on 9th June and one was over Scalby on 17th, with further singles at Bedale on 26th and at Lythe near Whitby on 9th July. 2 birds were seen from the Wykeham Raptor viewpoint in June and July.

In August, one was reported from Brough Haven on 20th and an adult male was seen on Thorne Moors on 22nd. In September 2 were over RVCP on 12th; one flew south at Spurn on 15th; a juvenile was seen at Nan Scar over Leeming Res on 22nd with one over Oxenhope Moor on that date, and one flew south at Spurn on 26th.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

Rare migrant

1999: One over Whitestone Point, Whitby on the evening of 8th May was seen flying inland up the River Esk (JAB: RSS).

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Rare vagrant

1999: An immature at Burton Constable Hall (VC 61) was present from 22nd October to 16th November (PBa: GED *et al*). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 9: 26-28.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Very scarce migrant: has bred

1999: A "ringtail" was at Filey on 9th May (JH *et al*), with an immature male at Flamborough on 8th and 9th (PAL: FXM: PJW). Further ringtails were at Flamborough (PAL) and Little Weighton on 10th (JMB), and on 20th at Bempton (AD) and Salter's Brook (SDa). In August, a juvenile was at Astley Lake on 14th (PRM). A juvenile frequented east Holderness from 21st to 29th August, being seen at several locations including Easington, Hollym, East Newton and Grimston (AFJ: TI *et al*) before flying south at Sammy's Point, Easington and later Spurn on 30th (BRS: AR *et al*).

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

Scarce migrant and winter visitor

1999: Reports of wintering birds were of singles in early February at Scaling Dam Res and Bransdale on the North York Moors, with further singles reported from Leighton and Gouthwaite on 15th and 20th. One was seen well in the Barnside Moor/Midhope area on 5th/6th and 9th/10th March (MCW *et al*). In April, one flew over Allerton Bywater, Fairburn Ings and Fryston on 2nd (JB: JG: CW: SW). Possibly the same bird was seen over Sammy's Point, Easington on 4th, U-turning over Spurn before heading towards Skeffling on 5th, and finally passing south at Spurn on 6th (GED: LJD *et al*).

In autumn, one was reported at Cloughton on 18th October (DBy), whilst one at Spurn on 25th flew off south-east after resting in the dunes (NAB *et al*) and possibly a different bird flew low west then north over Kilnsea on 26th (IF). One was in Sleddale on 27th-28th November (MCo: JLS).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Regular passage migrant in increasing numbers

1999: The numbers reported continue to increase, but there are clearly a number of duplicated records with such a large and distinctive bird. The first flew over the M1 just south of junction 36 on 26th March. One was over Barnside Moor on 28th. In April there were 20 reports, with singles at TLNR on 4th (the first of 10 records from that site), Barden Scale on 6th and Wykeham Lakes on 7th. Singles were at Fairburn on 11th and 12th; Skelton Lake on 12th; by the River Aire at Brotherton on 13th; lingering at TLNR on 14th; Old Moor on 16th and following the A1 north of Catterick on 17th. One (the same?) was at Coatham Marsh on 17th, one over Midhope Res on 18th, one at Guisborough on 22nd and one at Fewston Res on 28th. In May birds were recorded on the coast from Filey on 3rd, 15th, 16th and 31st, Flamborough on 8th and 15th and north at Spurn on 9th, 11th and 26th.

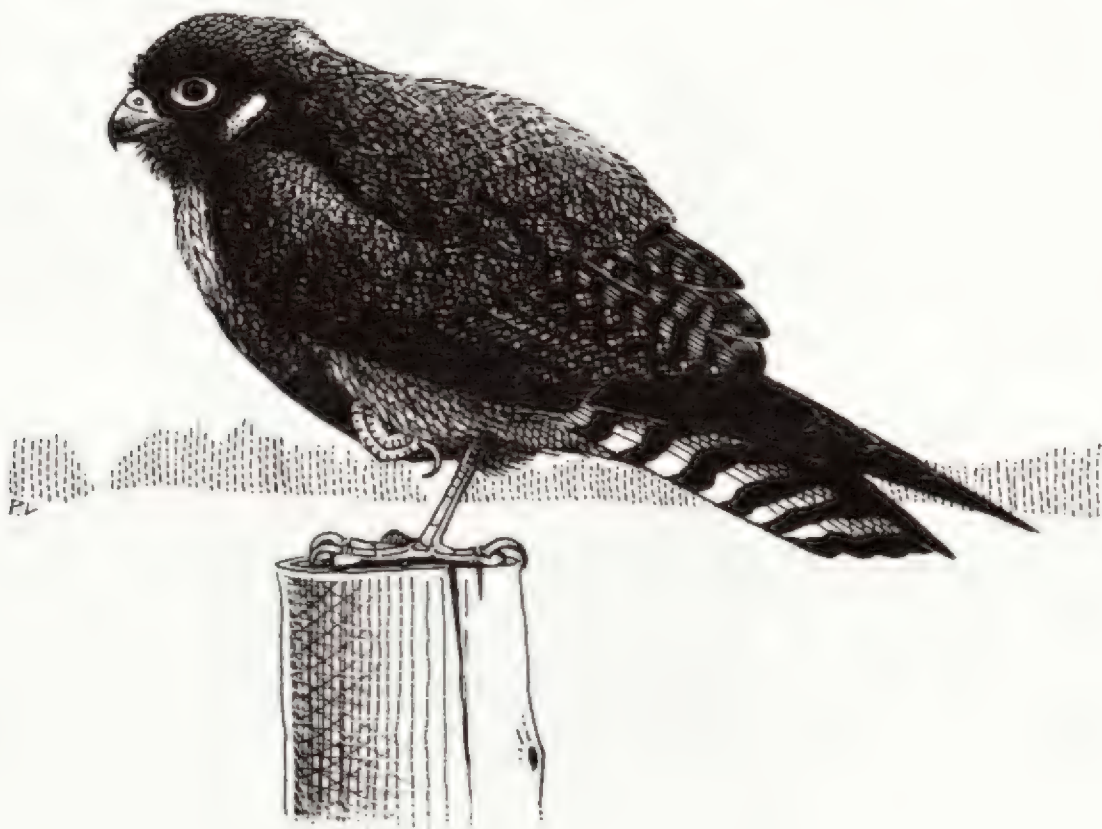
Inland in May, singles were at Barden Moor on 8th; Bellflask Quarry on 12th; Staveley NR on 13th, Pateley Bridge on 14th, PHENR on 16th and Old Moor on 18th. Other un-dated spring records came from Hornsea, East Newton, Aldbrough and Brough Haven. One found ill and under-nourished on Strensall Common on 18th May died overnight. One spent several weeks fishing at Wykeham Lakes from 14th May to 29th June and was also seen at Thornton-le-Dale and Ellerburn late in the month. In June, one flew south at Spurn on 3rd and in July one was at Leighton Res on 6th and another at TLNR on 25th.

In August, singles were at Potteric Carr and Wykeham on 1st; Bolton on Swale GP on 14th; Scaling Dam on 16th; Old Moor and Farnham GP on 19th; Chelker Res on 20th; Anglers on 21st; Broomhill Flash and PHENR on 22nd; Nunthorpe Middlesbrough on 25th and Barden Scale and Sandsend on 30th. In September singles were at Gouthwaite on 2nd, 4th, 9th and 10th; Staveley NR on 5th; New Swillington Ings on 8th; Langsett on 12th; Fairburn on 15th; Winterset and Fairburn on 20th. On 21st there were singles reported from Potteric Carr, Kilnsea and south at Spurn. Further singles were at Broomhill on 22nd, Thorne Moors on 24th and Barden Fell on 29th. Birds lingered into October with one at Embsay near Skipton on 2nd; at Nosterfield NR on 3rd; Lower Barden Res on 5th; Shipley on 14th and finally at Thornton Moor Res on 16th.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

Rare migrant

1999: A first-summer male was seen flying with Hobbies and Common Kestrels at Thorne Moors NNR on 12th and 13th (PJWS: LJD: LNS: JWo *et al*).



GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

Rare resident/escaped or deliberately released species: has bred

All records are assumed to be of escaped or released birds, and a self-supporting feral population does not appear to be established. All current records are from the Bradford district.

1999: 2 males were at Luddenden Dean on 21st February, whilst a male was reported from Lindley Wood Res on 24th September and 15th November.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*

Rare breeding species and scarce migrant

1999: Singing birds reported from the Derwent Valley between 22nd April and 24th July. The only confirmed records supported by descriptions are of one that showed well at Filey Dams from 4th to 12th September, with others at the Old Moor Wetlands from 12th September to 7th October (TH: DMW *et al*) and Carlton Marsh on 13th September (JP).

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex*

Rare breeding species, summer visitor and scarce migrant

1999: Singing birds were reported from the Derwent Valley between 10th May and 10th July. The only record confirmed by a description was of one flushed by dogs at Hummersea on 26th August (MAB).

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

Scarce migrant

1999: Passage was noted in March, with 3 on Sunk Island, Patrington from 5th-8th (HF), one at Flamborough Head from 7th-15th (NP *et al*), one flew east along the Pocklington Canal at Hagg Bridge on 28th, and 2 circled over Bempton Cliffs and Buckton later that day. In April an adult and an immature circled Filey on 4th before heading off south-west, but were again over the Dams on 7th. 2 birds (the same?) flew over Sandbeck near Doncaster on 18th (RAM: JHi). In May, 2 were over Thorne Moors NNR on 5th (BPW), one over Broomhill Ings on 7th (SR) and presumably the same bird over Darfield on 11th (JAS), 2 flew south over Seamer (NWA), Filey and Cowden on 15th, and one flew south at Flamborough Head on 19th (SW).

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedecnemus*

Rare vagrant, usually in spring: formerly bred

1999: One was seen in a potato field on the Sledmere estate on 23rd May (WFC) and another was seen being mobbed by Herring Gulls in a field beside Mickleby tip, north-west of Whitby, on 24th September (TJB).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

Rare vagrant

1999: A moulting adult was seen briefly at Wath Ings on 26th September (JHG: DMW *et al*), and a juvenile was at Brough Haven on 28th (EJH: RL). A juvenile at Old Moor Wetlands from 6th to 14th October was seen well and photographed (BE: JMc *et al*).

AMERICAN or PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica/fulva*

1999: A moulting adult almost in full breeding plumage was with a large Golden Plover flock near Knottingley between the M62 and Kellingley pit on 12th December (MA: DJBa). Insufficient structural detail was obtained to enable specific acceptance.

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

Scarce passage migrant: has very occasionally bred

1999: The first was a female on Thorne Moors on 27th April (RA: FO). 19 were on high ground near Harrogate on 6th May and one on Round Hill on 9th May (JLT). One was at Boulby Cliffs on 29th August (MAB), one at South Anston, Sheffield from 1st-15th September, one in fields at Staithes (DHe) and a juvenile at Spurn, both on 20th September. One at South Anston on 28th October was later seen at Rother Valley CP on 28th and again on 14th November.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusilla*

Rare vagrant

1999: A juvenile was seen briefly but at close range at BPNR on 17th September (ACG: MJH). The fourth county record.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Scarce passage migrant, more common in spring

1999: The first of a good spring passage was one at RVCP from 2nd to 6th May, with 2 at Nosterfield from 9th to 14th and one at Wykeham Lakes, Scarborough on 13th May (RHA). One at Beacon Ponds NR, Kilnsea on 22nd and 23rd was also seen at Spurn on 22nd (DPB: MJP), and another was at Fairburn Ings from 26th to 30th (VP). In June, one was at Watton NR from 1st to 4th and one at Scalby Lodge pond, Scarborough on 10th and 11th (DBY: MF *et al*). There was only one autumn record of one at Fairburn from 27th-29th August (JG).

LEAST SANDPIPER *Calidris minutilla*

Rare vagrant

1999: A particularly small juvenile was at Blacktoft Sands from 17th to 23rd October (PS: JMT *et al*), when a Sparrowhawk flushed it. This is the second county record. An account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 8: 138-139.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

Very scarce migrant

1999: There was a national influx this year, some of which reached Yorkshire. One was at Scalby Lodge pond near Scarborough on 20th August (MF). In September, juveniles were seen at Blacktoft Sands from 6th to 14th and at Spurn from 8th to 24th when it flew off south (IGI *et al*).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus griseus*

Rare vagrant

1999: The juvenile present on the north Tees from 29th September fortunately crossed the river into the Yorkshire recording area at Bran Sands on 3rd October (SG *et al*) and remained until 7th. This is the first county record. An account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 8: 142-144.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis*

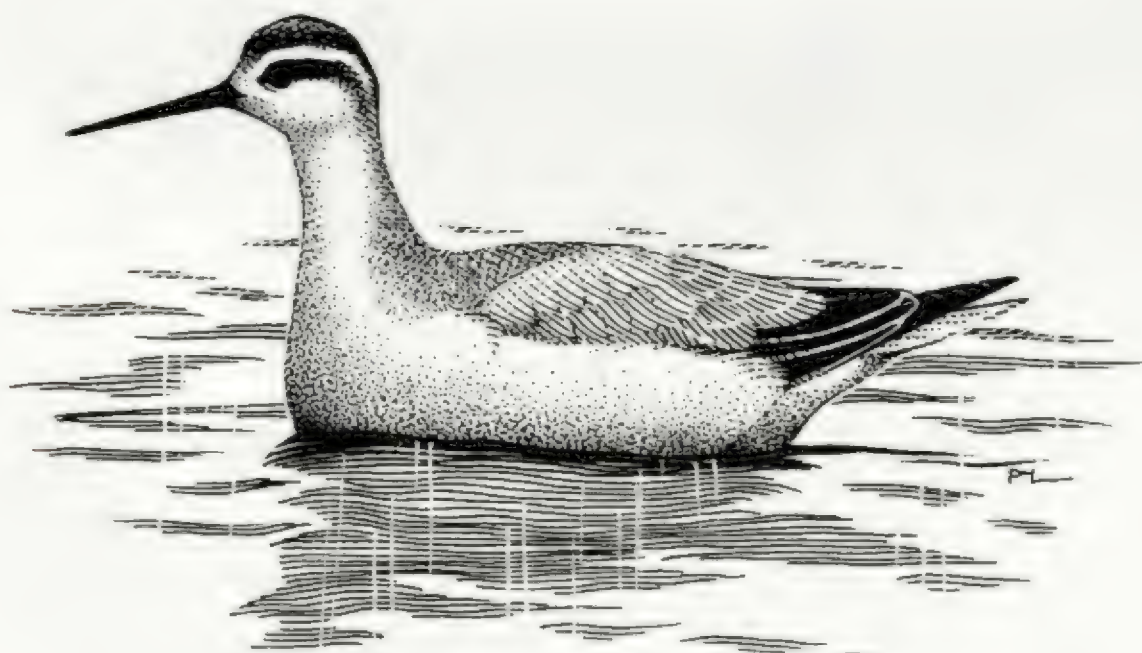
Rare vagrant

1999: Three juveniles were found at Astley Lake, Swillington Ings at 1 p.m. on 3rd August (PC: ARo), before moving on after 20 minutes. They were re-located in the evening at Spoonbill Flash, Fairburn Ings, where they remained until 5th (VP *et al*). These are the county's second records. A full account of the Fairburn birds is in *Yorkshire Birding* 8: 100-102.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Phalaropus tricolor*

Rare vagrant

1999: A juvenile/first-winter was seen and photographed at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd October. On the 9th, what is presumed to be the same bird was at Edderthorpe Flash in the early morning (GJS), before moving to Blacktoft Sands, where it stayed until 13th (GED: IHL *et al*)



RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

Very scarce migrant

1999: A first-summer male was at Thornton Moor Res from 22nd to 24th May (MD *et al*).

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Scarce coastal migrant and winter visitor: rare inland

1999: The only ones in the first half of the year were one seen briefly off Filey Brigg on 7th January and another on the sea off Skipsea on 9th February that then flew north. Singles were seen at Flamborough on 18th and 20th September and at Filey on 17th to 21st October. One was at Hellifield Flash on 3rd and 4th November and possibly the same bird was then seen at Gallaber (VC 64) from 4th to 6th (BS), and Fairburn Ings on 10th, with another off South Gare on 19th and 20th. In December one was at Filey intermittently from 5th - 14th, with singles north at Flamborough on 15th and 16th.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Uncommon coastal migrant mainly in autumn: rare inland

1999: At Flamborough, singles were seen on 7th and 10th August with 2 on 11th and 15th, 3 on 18th, 20th and 21st, 2 on 19th, and a single on 22nd. An adult flew north at Filey on 20th August and an adult lingered on the Humber at Spurn on 21st and 22nd, with one past Atwick on the latter date. An obliging juvenile was on the Golf Course at Fisherman's Crossing, Teesside on 9th September. An adult passed Staithes on 16th, a juvenile flew south at Hornsea on 19th September with possibly the same or another bird seen flying south again the following day, when a juvenile flew south at Filey. Dead juveniles were picked up at South Gare on 16th and 25th September. In September at Flamborough, singles were recorded on 3rd, 12th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 27th, with 3 on both 13th and 20th. 2 on 1st October were followed by 5 on 2nd, a single on 4th, 6 on 5th, 4 on 6th, a single on 15th, 2 on 16th and a single on 22nd. Normally it is a rare bird in November, but singles were seen off Flamborough on 3rd, 4th and 17th with a remarkable 7 on 6th (the big skua day).

Inland, juveniles were reported from Brough Haven on 24th. (One reported from Thornton Moor Res on 25th August was only accepted as skua sp.). 75 records in total, with 82 % from Flamborough.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*

Scarce coastal migrant

1999: In August, adults were reported from Spurn on 10th, South Gare on 11th and 18th; a juvenile passed Long Nab, Scarborough on 20th; an adult flew north through Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 21st, and an adult flew north on 22nd at Flamborough. In September, adults were reported from Spurn on 1st and 24th, and Withernsea on 25th, with Flamborough Head recording a juvenile south on 16th and 2 juveniles south on 19th. In October further juveniles flew south at

Flamborough on 4th and north on 5th, an adult flew off the Humber at the "narrows" at Spurn on 18th and a juvenile flew south there on 20th.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

Rare vagrant

1999: An adult made a brief appearance at Scalby Mills, Scarborough on 26th February (NJP: DBy: JH *et al*) and details are in *Yorkshire Birding* 8: 28-29. By tremendous coincidence a second, smaller adult appeared on 31st December at the same site, remaining into the new Millennium (DBy: SH *et al*). An account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 9: 24-25.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus (argentatus) michahellis*

Scarce summer visitor and migrant, becoming increasingly common

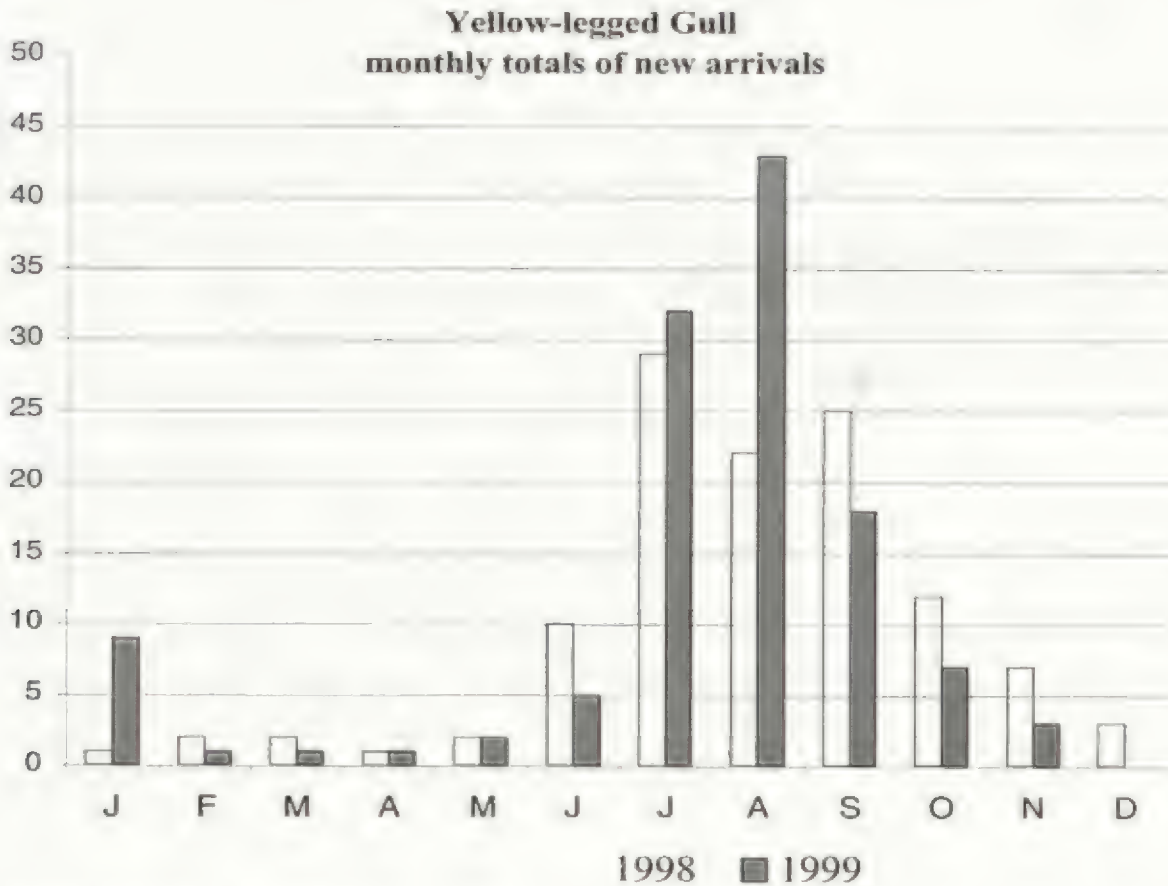
1999: All records of 90-125 birds refer to the form *michahellis*. July to September are the peak months for summering birds, but it can be encountered at any time. The majority of records refer to adults unless stated, but this age-distribution may reflect lack of observer confidence with the identification of younger birds.

One was reported from Langsett on 2nd with one at Sunk Island on 3rd, 4 at Southfield Res on 4th, and 2 there on 5th and another from Flamborough on 12th January. Presumably the adult from the previous year was at Gouthwaite Res on 23rd January, with a fourth-winter there on 24th and 2 the same day at Southfield Res. After one at Southfield on 7th February there was then a gap until one was at TLNR on 2nd March, a second-summer at Blackley Tip on 17th April, one at Wheldrake on 18th and one at Whitley Edge on 31st May.

1-2 returned again to the Humber at Spurn from 26th June to 16th October. Also in June 3 were in fields between Kilnsea and Easington. In July a third-summer was at Gouthwaite on 5th and 3 adults were there on 31st. A second-summer bird was at Manywells tip on 6th; up to 13 were on Sunk Island by the end of the month, remaining into August; at least 4 were at Ringstone Edge Res; 2 were at Flamborough on 13th and there were 9 records between 12th July and 23rd August from Thornton Moor Res. An adult was at Broomhill Ings on 25th July. In August 2 adults were at Ringstone Edge and 3 adults were still at Gouthwaite on 2nd; 2 adults roosted at Winterset Res on 27th; 2 at Langsett Res on 27th and one there from 28th-31st. Singles were reported from Flamborough on 4th and 25th; first-summer at Broomhill Ings on 17th and 28th; Winterset on 26th; Fairburn and Spurn on 27th; Royd Moor Res on 28th; Winterset and at Lakeside on 29th. An adult and a third-summer were at Spurn on 30th and a single at Sprotborough tip on 31st.

In September, 2 were at Langsett on 1st and singles were at Scabba Wood tip on 1st and Southfield Res on 2nd with 4 there on 11th, 3 on 12th and 2 on 25th. A first-summer was at Old Moor on 3rd/4th and an adult at Wath Ings on 8th. 2 were at Nosterfield NR on 5th with singles there on 8th, 18th-21st and 26th; one was at Lakeside on 6th; singles at Ringstone on 8th and 20th; one at Old Moor on

8th with 2 there on 10th, and one at Flamborough on 12th. In October singles were off Hornsea on 2nd, at Winterset Res on 5th, Gouthwaite on 9th, Spurn on 10th and Nosterfield on 18th and a third-year at Winterset on 30th with 2 adults there on 31st. Finally singles were at Gouthwaite on 2nd and 7th, Manywells Heights on 3rd and Old Moor Wetlands on 17th November.



ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

1999: A similar pattern to 1998, with all but two of the inland records being in the first three months, and a reasonable number of adults reported from the 30+ records. Does increased observer activity in January result in wintering birds being found or are birds moving inland later in the winter? The pattern suggests the latter.

On the Humber an adult flew east at Brough Haven on 1st January. A first-winter at Staithes on 14th January was the only record for the year north of Scarborough. In Scarborough during the first three months at least 3 different birds (2 first-winters and a second-winter) were seen at several locations, mainly Scalby Mills/Jackson's Bay. An adult was at Filey's coble landing and a third-winter bird was present at Hornsea Mere on 30th January. One was at Flamborough on 12th February, a second-winter was at Leven by-pass tip on 1st March and further singles visited Flamborough on 13th and 14th March. A first or second-winter flew north at Spurn on 21st April and a first-summer was in Filey Bay on 1st May.

Inland in the Derwent Valley, an adult roosted on 30th January, a second-winter on 7th and first-winters on 13th, 15th, 27th and 28th February, with a second first-winter on 24th and 27th. A first-winter continued to roost through March, with an adult on 27th, and a third-winter on 3rd April.

Later in the year an adult was at Spurn on 28th November and Beacon Ponds on 1st December, a first-winter bird was at Hornsea sea front on 7th December and a first-winter was at Leven by-pass tip on 8th. An adult roosted at Bank Island, Wheldrake on 6th and a second-winter on 18th. A first-winter flew south at Spurn on 25th and 2 first-winters and an adult were at Scalby Mills on 30th December with at least one first-winter remaining on 31st.

Inland in VC's 63 and 64 a second-winter was at Winterset Res on 2nd and 10th January, one (age unknown) at Otley GP on 3rd, adults were at New Swillington Ings and Winterset on 17th and Southfield Res on 28th with a second-winter at the latter on 31st January. Different first-winters were at Winterset on 21st and 27th February. A second-winter was at Southfield Res on 8th March and a second-summer there on 5th April. Single first-winters roosted at Southfield Res from 29th-31st and at Anglers on 31st December. From VC 65, reported on six dates at Nosterfield NR: single adults on 14th, 17th and 19th January, 21st and 26th March, with a sub-adult on 1st March. An adult was at Farnham GP on 14th February and records from Bar Lane Quarry were a fourth-winter bird on 6th and 23rd February, a second-winter bird on 10th February and an adult on 25th February

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

1999: At least 50 birds noted, allowing for some duplication of records, but relatively scarce inland compared to some previous winters. At least 2 birds on the coast in July with one appearing to over-summer in VC 62.

VC 61 the first of the year was first-winter at Filey on 2nd January, followed by an adult at Hornsea Mere on 10th January and a second-winter at Spurn on 23rd, a third-winter at Hornsea on 30th and one at Flamborough on 31st. At least 2 first-winters frequented the Filey area until April 17th. An adult flew north at Aldbrough on 7th February, then a single next day at Flamborough with 2 there on 21st. A first-winter bird frequented the Leven by-pass tip area, being seen on 15th February and 10th and 13th March. Singles appeared at Spurn in March on 19th, 21st and 31st and at Flamborough in March on 14th, 20th, 21st and 23rd. In April, Spurn had birds on 3rd (2 first-winters) 4th and 19th and Flamborough recorded birds on 4th, 12th and 16th April. A first-winter was at Grimston on the last date. A first-year flew south at Spurn on 13th May. A second-summer was in Filey Bay from 24th-31st July. Later in the year singles were at Spurn on 6th and 20th November and at Flamborough on 29th November, 13th, 17th, 19th, 20th and 31st December.

In the Derwent Valley, the Wheldrake roost held a first-winter on 16th and an adult on 30th January; a third-winter on 12th February and a first-winter

from 1st to 4th April, with another first-winter on 19th and 2 on 22nd of that month.

In VC 62, South Gare held first-winters on 9th and 25th January and a second-winter on 6th February. An immature at Saltburn on 7th February and one at Redcar on 20th November were the only records from the north. Whitby had its regular adult from January to at least 31st March then again from 26th October until the year-end. A first-winter at Ness Point on 29th December was the only other record. At Scarborough in the first three months at least 4 birds were seen. 2 first-winters, a third-winter and an adult were reported from various sites on several dates. A first-summer at Burton Riggs on 18th May, 2nd July, 7th, 9th, 27th August and at Wykeham Lakes on 29th August, must surely have summered in the area. Later in the year 2 different first-winters were found on 29th December at Scalby Mills and the Harbour and an adult was seen occasionally.

In VC 63 a first- or second-winter was at Winterset on 1st with a fourth-winter there on 9th and different first-winters on 10th and 23rd. An adult flew north at Blackburn Meadows on 10th January and 2 different first-winters were at Broomhead Res on 17th. A first-winter roosted at Southfield Res from 5th February until 9th March, with a second bird there between 10th and 24th February. One was at Barnsdale Bar on 14th and a first-winter was at Hooton Roberts on 21st February and another first-winter at Winterset also 21st February.

A good series of records from the Harrogate area of VC 64/65 included: Nosterfield NR: a first-winter bird on 14th and 23rd January; a second-winter bird on 3rd and 5th February; an adult on 9th and 26th March and a first-winter bird, a second-winter bird and an adult were seen on various dates between 7th and 25th April, only two of these three individuals being seen on any one day. At Bar Lane Quarry a second-winter bird was seen on 10th February and an adult on 16th, and at Farnham GP a first-winter bird on 12th March.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

Scarce coastal migrant, most frequent in late summer/early autumn

1999: An exceptional year, when many birders finally caught up with this species. An adult flew north at Flamborough Head on 11th June followed by 2 more on 25th. Two were at Beacon Ponds NR, Kilnsea on 17th June, one on 23rd and 2 on 30th. 2 further adults were seen off Flamborough Head on 11th July, 2 were on rocks off South Gare on 21st July and one was at Spurn on 24th. In August one was at Scarborough on 3rd; an adult was seen at Flamborough on 4th; an adult and a juvenile were seen at Flamborough on 8th; one was at Scarborough on 20th; 4 flew south at Spurn on 29th and an adult and juvenile was at Filey on 31st. An adult was found roosting with Common Terns in a field near Easington on 14th, the precursor to a remarkable run at Beacon Ponds NR, Kilnsea. 2 adults were present there on 28th August, with 7 on 29th, one on 30th, 2 on 31st, 3 on 1st September, one on 2nd and one on 11th. South Gare was probably the best site, however, with birds present from late August through to the 14th September, and a maximum of 8

on 4th September. An adult was seen at Flamborough on 8th September, and Spurn had a further 5 in September, with a remarkable 10 south on 1st October.

WHITE-WINGED (BLACK) TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Rare vagrant

1999: A remarkable series of six records from the county was part of a major national influx, although the number of separate individuals involved is not certain. A juvenile was found at Fairburn Ings on 31st July, remaining mainly on Hickson's Pool until 10th August (CW *et al*). In August a moulting adult was present on the evening of 2nd at Pugney's CP (JHa: PSm *et al*), and a summer-plumaged adult was at East Tanfield on 10th (B & SM). A moulting summer-plumaged adult was seen at Filey Dams on 19th (JHo: IR *et al*) and an adult was watched for 30 minutes and photographed at PHENR early on 22nd August (DGH). An immature flew south off Filey Brigg during an evening sea-watch on 29th (FXM: CCT: CW). Detailed accounts of the Filey birds are in the *Filey Brigg Report 1999*: 60-61.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

1999: An unseasonal adult was seen close inshore on 31st May in North Bay, Scarborough (NBe) and a first-winter was in Filey Bay on 22nd September (PC). One flew north at Atwick on 11th November (WFC).

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

Passage migrant and winter visitor, occasionally abundant: rare inland

1999: One found dead at South Gare on 12th February and 3 at Flamborough on 24th were the only records in the first half of the year.

A single south past Long Nab on 20th October was the first of a lean autumn. One flew off the Humber and out to sea on 22nd. November was better with a peak in the north of the county during gales on 20th when 5 were at South Gare and 35 passed Long Nab. Flamborough recorded 98 on 7th, 12 on 8th, 16 on 9th, 125 on 10th, 23 on 11th, 18 on 12th, 39 on 14th, 12 on 15th, 158 on 19th and 45 on 20th. These movements were reflected to a lesser extent further south over a period of 13 days from 9th to 21st November. 11 were at Hornsea and 5 at Bridlington on 9th, 15 at Hornsea on 10th, 14 at Hornsea and 9 at Atwick on 11th, 2 at Hornsea on 12th, one at Grimston and 6 at Hornsea on 14th, 21 at Skipsea and 20 at Hornsea on 19th, one at Hornsea and 2 in Bridlington harbour on 21st. Spurn recorded 25 on 7th, 24 on 10th, 7 on 11th, 10 on 12th, 2 on 13th, 24 on 14th (all north) and one south on 14th, with a further 38 including 20 on 19th by the end of the month. Otherwise there were 1-2 on several dates at South Gare, Redcar and Marske between 11th November-5th December. The only record from Whitby was of a single passing Ness Point on 13th November. Finally 4 passed Flamborough on 5th, 3 passed South Gare on 7th and a singles passed Spurn on 12th and Flamborough on 29th December.

Inland one was at Brough Haven on 10th November and one was found in a west Hull garden on the same date and taken into care but, unfortunately, it did not recover and died two days later. Birds were picked up in gardens in Mirfield and Huddersfield on 12th.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escapes

1999: One was in Gilstead (VC 64) on 14th April, one flew north at Spurn on 13th July and one flew over Hay-a-Park GP, Knaresborough on 25th September.

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus*

Rare vagrant

1999: Yorkshire enjoyed a share of the remarkable autumn influx of about 10 of this species into England. One at Flamborough Head from 25th to 28th October was joined by a second bird on 26th at least and probably the 27th (IF: S.H: NP *et al*). The second and third county records. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 8: 132-135.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*

Rare vagrant from southern Europe, usually in spring

1999: One was seen over Hornsea Mere on the afternoon of 8th May (AB: TDC: WH *et al*), while another came in off the sea at Flamborough on 21st July (AMA).

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

Scarce vagrant from southern Europe, annual in recent years

1999: One flew in off the sea and then north at Filey on 19th May (SC). On 23rd May parties of 6 and 1 flew north at Spurn in the afternoon (LJD: RG: SCR *et al*) before being refound as a group of 10 at Skeffling. They then flew off east before returning over the sea at Beacon Ponds NR, lingering near Easington Cemetery before returning to Skeffling at 7 p.m. They then moved west to roost near Welwick, and finally left high to the south-east at 0550 on 24th.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

Very scarce vagrant from the continent, annual in recent years

1999: One was seen between Whitby and Robin Hood's Bay on the Cleveland Way 14th June (RB) and one was found on the golf course between Primrose Valley and Filey on 20th September.

EURASIAN WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Scarce coastal passage migrant: rare inland

1999: Once again only two spring records, of birds at Flamborough on 28th April and Atwick on 14th May. The first autumn record came, unexpectedly, from Dewsbury SF on 22nd August, then singles at South Gare and Saltburn on 25th, and Flamborough on 26th and 27th. In September, singles were on scrubland in

west Hull on 9th, at Filey on 12th, with one at Grimston on 20th and one at Spurn on 21st, which remained until 4th October.

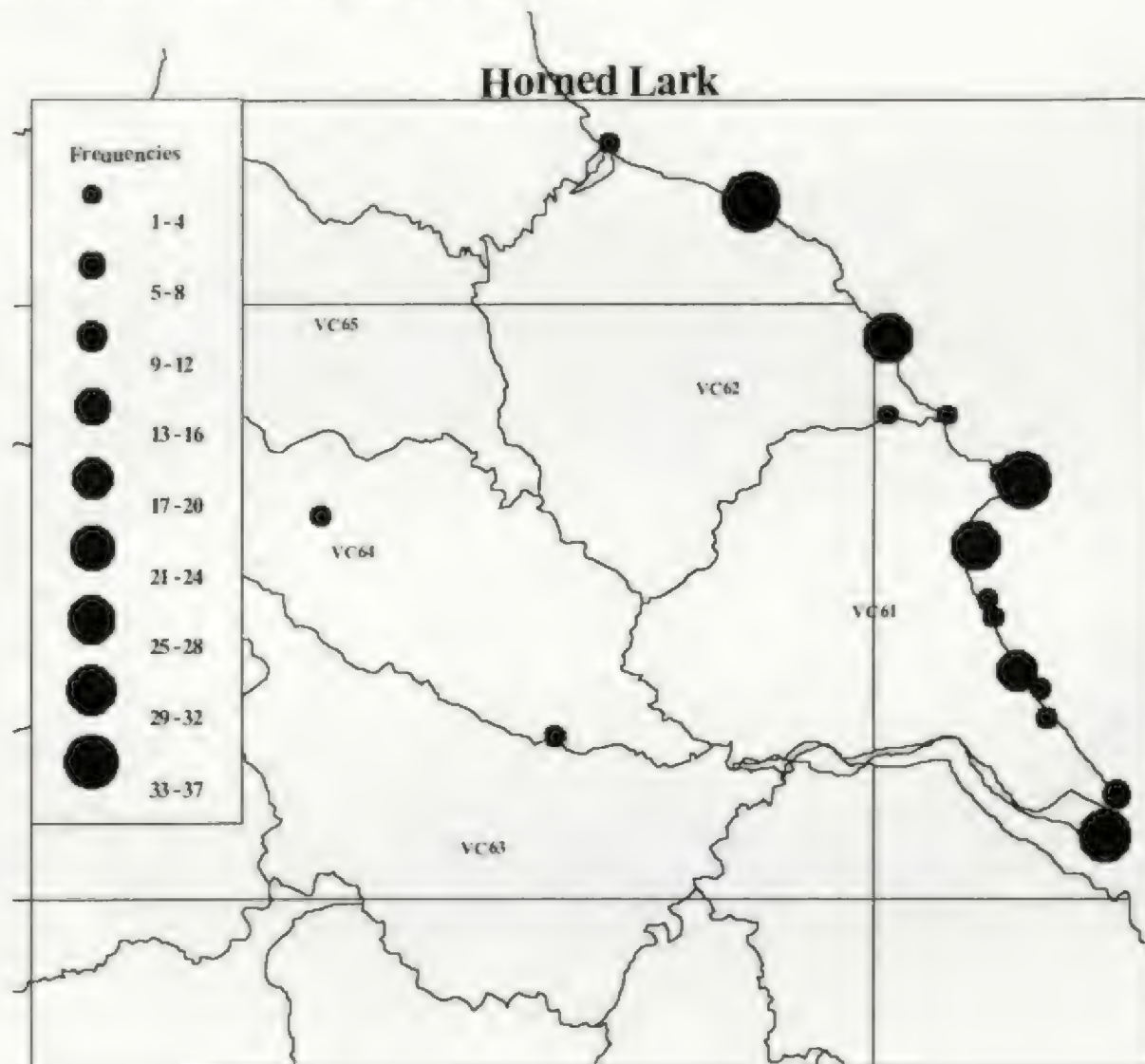
GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Very scarce coastal passage migrant: occasional winter record

1999: One on the cliff-top at Aldbrough on 26th and 27th November (AFJ *et al*) showed characters of one of the greyer eastern races.

HORNED LARK *Eremophila alpestris*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant



Map showing distribution 1998-1999

1999: Up to 37 were at Port Mulgrave in January, with 33 still there in mid-March. Also in January 20 were at Long Nab, Scarborough, 20 at Barmston and up to 14 at Flamborough Head, with 8 there on 14th March. In February 7 were on cliff-top set-a-side at Ringborough farm near Aldbrough on 11th, with 13 there on 12th. Inland, a surprise was one at Fairburn Ings on 14th March that remained until 26th. Migrants were recorded from Spurn with singles on 17th March and 3rd, 22nd and 23rd April. In April, singles were at South Gare on 3rd and again on 9th-

10th, with one at BPNR on 21st, with 2 there on 22nd and 23rd. In May 2 were at Spurn and birds were recorded from Filey on 1st with 4 on 4th and 11 on 6th, while 16 were just north of Robin Hood's Bay on 2nd and 3rd, and 4 at Cromer Point, Scarborough on 4th.

In the second winter period, a single flew south over BPNR on 2nd October and further singles were at Sammy's Point, Easington and Filey on 17th October, with 1-2 at Long Nab, Scarborough from 21st through to 7th November. 2 were at Filey by 23rd when 6 flew south at Spurn and by the 25th, 4 were at Filey and one at Spurn, with one at South Gare and 3 at Easington Lagoons on 26th; 2 at Long Nab on 29th, when 7 were at Flamborough, and 5 came in off the sea at Spurn on 31st. Singles were at Filey and Spurn on 16th November and 4 were at Flamborough on 5th December.

EURASIAN CRAG MARTIN *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Rare vagrant

1999: The first county record was one found at Anglers Country Park, Winterset at 3 p.m. on 18th April and watched for 10 minutes (PSm: NPS *et al*). It was later re-located at 5 p.m. at Pugney's Country Park where it remained for just over two hours, and was seen by many observers. A full account is contained in *Yorkshire Birding* 8: 58-60.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*

Rare passage migrant

1999: Singles flew south at Spurn on 3rd (AR *et al*), 8th (DRM *et al*), 12th (DPB: DRM), 13th (MJP: DRM) and 15th May (NAB). This extraordinary sequence led to some debate as to whether the same group of hirundines was circling the Humber, but there had been an influx of this species into the country, and 17,370 Swallows were counted flying south past the "narrows" during the same period.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Scarce coastal passage migrant in autumn: rare inland

1999: Singles were at Saltburn on 12th September (DAM), at Flamborough Head on 14th (PAL) and Spurn on 16th, at Kilnsea from 17th to 20th (presumed same as the Spurn bird) (GG: MBP *et al*), and possibly a different bird at Long Bank, Easington on 25th (JGr: MGS). In October singles were noted at Spurn on 6th (SH *et al*), and at Buckton (AD), Filey (REH: DJS: PMS: CCT *et al*), East Newton (AFJ) and Spurn on 16th October. On the 17th one was at South Gare (ECP), while the Spurn and Filey birds were still present. Another was at Spurn from 22nd to 25th, and one (possibly the bird from the 16th?) was at East Newton on 24th, and again from 28th to 2nd November (AFJ).

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*

Rare coastal passage migrant

1999: One was at South Gare on 12th and 13th May (NAP), and one at Spurn on 18th (DPB *et al*).

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

Rare coastal passage migrant

1999: One was at Whitestone Point, Whitby on 15th May (JAB: RSS *et al*) and another was there on 29th May (RSS). A bird in full summer plumage was found at Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea on 25th May, remaining in the Spurn area until 27th (MJP: AAH *et al*). It was seen by many observers and photographed.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

1999: 2-3 birds over-wintered at New Swillington Ings, with 4 reported there in February. One over-wintered from 1998 at Broomhill Flash up to 8th March. Singles were reported from Fairburn Ings on 15th January, 3rd February 22nd and 24th March. One was reported from Wheldrake Ings on 16th and 17th January, with one at Methley Quarry from 14th February to 14th April, and probably the same individual reported at Hickson's Pool, Fairburn on 27th March. One was at PHENR on 20th March, with two there on 28th, one remaining to 30th.

In the second winter period 4 were at Blacktoft Sands in mid October and up to 3 were there in November. 2 returned to New Swillington Ings on 30th October, and at least one wintered in the Broomhill area from 29th October. Singles were at Methley Quarry on 28th November and Fairburn Ings on 7th December, and another returned to New Swillington Ings in December. One was by the bridge at Wheldrake on 19th December.

GREY-HEADED WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava thunbergi*

Scarce migrant, mostly in spring

1999: A male was at Filey Dams on 31st May.

WHITE-THROATED DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

"Black-bellied" Dipper *Cinclus c. cinclus*

Rare vagrant

1999: One flew north past the sea-watching hut at Spurn on 14th November, and was later found in a dyke along Beacon Lane, Kilnsea. It went to roost in a Water Vole hole but was not present the next day (AAH *et al*).

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia*

Rare passage migrant

1999: One was heard singing in the garden of Kew Villa, Kilnsea in the early morning of 16th May but it proved extremely elusive until it was trapped at 11.30 (DPB: MJP *et al*). It was only briefly glimpsed in the field afterwards.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Rare breeding summer visitor in the south and rare passage migrant

1999: The first bird returned to Thorne Moors on 23rd April, where 11 singing males held territory. A bird was seen carrying food on 28th May, and a nest containing two fledged young was found on 31st May. A passage bird sang during rain in a Conisbrough garden on 20th April (RAF). This species is now becoming an extremely scarce migrant on the coast, with the only record being one at Flamborough on 3rd May (PAL).

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*

Scarce coastal passage migrant: occasional rare breeding species

1999: On Thorne Moors a single male "White-spotted" Bluethroat *L. s. cyaneacula* was again present from 30th March to 1st April (ML: PCR). A very poor year for the species on the coast, with just a female trapped at Spurn on 31st May.

COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Eastern races Saxicola t. maura/stejnegeri

Rare coastal migrant

1999: A first-winter male was at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 16th and 17th October (DBY: SW).

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*

Scarce passage migrant: occasional rare breeding species

1999: The first migrants were on 27th and 29th May at Flamborough. A singing bird was located near Scarborough on 23rd May and two birds were noted from 28th, with nesting material being carried. Two young were fledged, with the last sighting of an adult on 2nd August. On 13th June, at a second site near Scarborough, two more singing birds were located, with three birds seen and possibly two pairs were present. Two recently fledged juveniles were found on 11th August at this site close to where the lone male had been singing.

A singing bird was heard from a hedgerow near Fairburn Ings on 12th June, a first site record (JB: RS). A male was also found singing near York from 5th to 16th June, with a second bird present on 16th June (AJB *et al*). No proof of breeding was established at either of these sites, however.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Rare vagrant

1999: One was found singing at Leventhorpe near New Swillington Ings on 10th June (PRM *et al*) where it remained until 5th July.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*

Scarce coastal passage migrant, more common in autumn

1999: In spring, birds were reported from Flamborough Head on 19th May (SMc), in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough (MF) on 20th and another was singing at

Filey CP that same day (SMc: TLH *et al*). One was at Flamborough Head on 5th June (AMA). In autumn, singles were at Flamborough on 9th (PAL) and at Boulby (DP) and another in Kilnsea churchyard on 25th August (BF). In September there were further sightings along Kilnsea Road on 12th (LJD: PKG *et al*), and the "canal hedge" at Spurn on 22nd (LS: GV).

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

Scarce coastal passage migrant, very rare in spring

1999: In August one was in "canal hedge" at Spurn from 25th to 30th (MFS: MGS *et al*), one by Southfield Farm from 26th to 30th (BF *et al*), and 2 near "Chalk Bank" hide on 27th (RL *et al*). One was reported from Spurn on 4th September (AR *et al*) and one from Kilnsea on 22nd September. The only record from Flamborough Head was a juvenile on 29th September (FXM: NP *et al*).

PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Scarce autumn migrant: rare inland

1999: An October influx began on the 15th with one at Filey that stayed until 17th. Many birds were found on 16th including at Staithes (DHe); Ness Point, Whitby (until 18th) (JAB: NC: AF *et al*); Castle Hill, Scarborough (SW); Tunstall (RBo) and Kilnsea (DH), with 4 at Flamborough (LC: NP: M & PC *et al*), and 3 still there on 17th. On the 17th, one was still in Kilnsea, whilst new birds were at the Point at Spurn (AJG) and at South Gare (NAP). Singles were at Flamborough on 18th and 20th (PAL) and one was at Kilnsea on 23rd (EH: AR *et al*). One was present in the vicar's garden in the village of North Newbald (VC 61) on 9th and 10th November (SDW).

YELLOW-BROWED LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Scarce autumn passage migrant: rare inland

1999: The first of the year was at Cloughton on 27th and 28th September, but 4 arrived in the Spurn/ Kilnsea area on 30th, with one in Beacon Lane being seen on 1st and perhaps a different bird there on 4th, the one in Kilnsea churchyard staying until 11th October. A single was at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 1st and 2nd October. Singles were at Primrose Valley Filey on 9th and Flamborough on 10th. Further migrants were at Spurn and South Gare on 15th with 2 at Filey, one of which remained until 22nd. The main influx occurred on the 16th when 2 were at Boulby Cliffs; one at Ness Point, Whitby; 2 more were at Filey; 5 at Flamborough, and a new bird at Spurn. The next day one was found inland at Bishop Burton (VC 61). Flamborough had singles on 22nd and 23rd, with one at Spurn on the latter date and another inland record came from Great Ouseburn (JSB: Miss AP). Further singles were at Flamborough on 25th and 27th, and the last sighting was one at Spurn on 2nd November.

RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Rare coastal migrant in autumn

1999: One was found in South Landing, Flamborough on 16th October, remaining until 17th (JGL *et al*).

Addition to the 1991 report: VC 61 One was at Easington on 12th-13th October (CF: GF).

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Rare coastal migrant in autumn

1999: One was at Locke Park, Redcar from 26th to 28th October (TF *et al*).

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli*

Rare coastal migrant

1999: One found and trapped at Spurn on the evening of 2nd June had gone the next day (GED: DPB *et al*), fourth county record.

Alterations to previous reports: a review by the BBRC was published (BB 91, no. 4 pp. 122/123) following the award of specific status to Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*. The following records are now regarded as proven *P. bonelli* and become the first three county records.

1991 VC 61 One trapped at Spurn on 24th October (DJB *et al*).

1992 VC 61 One at Filey on 19th September and presumed same 27th-28th (JMT *et al*).

1993 VC 62 One at Scarborough on 17th August (RAH).

The following records are to be regarded as Western/Eastern Bonelli's Warblers.

1970 VC 61 One on 15th October at Spurn.

1972 VC 61 One on 29th and 30th August at Spurn

1976 VC 61 One in Kilnsea churchyard on 30th May and one at Flamborough on 13th September.

1989 VC 61 One at Filey on 13th September.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant: bred in 1995

1999: Singles were reported from Potteric Carr and Fairburn Ings in January. Flamborough had singles on 18th and 27th March, and one was at Grimston on 28th and 3 at Filey on 31st. At Spurn, singles were reported on 9 days from 16th March to 24th April, while one was at Bempton on 18th April. In May further singles were at Flamborough on 4th and 5th and Spurn on 12th.

The first autumn record was one at Filey on 12th September. In October, singles were at TLNR on 1st; at Ness Point Whitby on 19th; at Filey on 20th, joined by 4 more on 22nd, while singles were at Saltburn and Ness Point on 23rd and Cloughton on 24th. Also in October a single at Flamborough on 3rd was followed by one on 16th, 2 on 17th and 18th, 3 on 19th, 20th and 21st, 4 on 23rd, 3 on 24th and singles on 27th and 28th. Spurn recorded 42 bird-days between 9th and 30th October, with a peak count of 6 on 18th, and singles were nearby at Sammy's

Point, Easington on 9th and 19th. In November, singles were at Scammonden Dam on 6th and 9th, at Spurn on 13th and 20th and Clifton Ings on 26th. December records included singles at Bowden Housestead Wood, Sheffield, Thrybergh Tip and Old Moor on 24th.



RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

Scarce coastal passage migrant, rare in spring

1999: A juvenile was seen in Armdale, Filey, from 19th to 21st September (LG: PMS *et al*), and one was at Spurn on the 30th (DJP *et al*). In October 2 were at the Point at Spurn on 15th with one on 16th (CAC: RPC *et al*). At Flamborough, one on 20th October (PAL: JMP: DAR) was the only record.

EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

Scarce passage migrant mainly in spring: bred in 1992

1999: One was heard singing for a few minutes at a location near Scarborough on 14th May. A female sat briefly on a reservoir wall at Tophill Low NR on 26th May. On 31st a well-watched immature male was present at Nostell Dam, Wakefield. In June, a female was seen at Wheldrake on 6th, one was at Spurn on 7th and one was on Thorne Moors on 15th. A male over Astley Lake, Swillington on 21st August was a pleasant surprise.

ISABELLINE SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus*

Rare vagrant to coast in autumn

1999: A first-winter was found by visitors near South Landing, Flamborough, on 18th October, and remained until dark on 20th (AMA: PAL: DIMW *et al*).

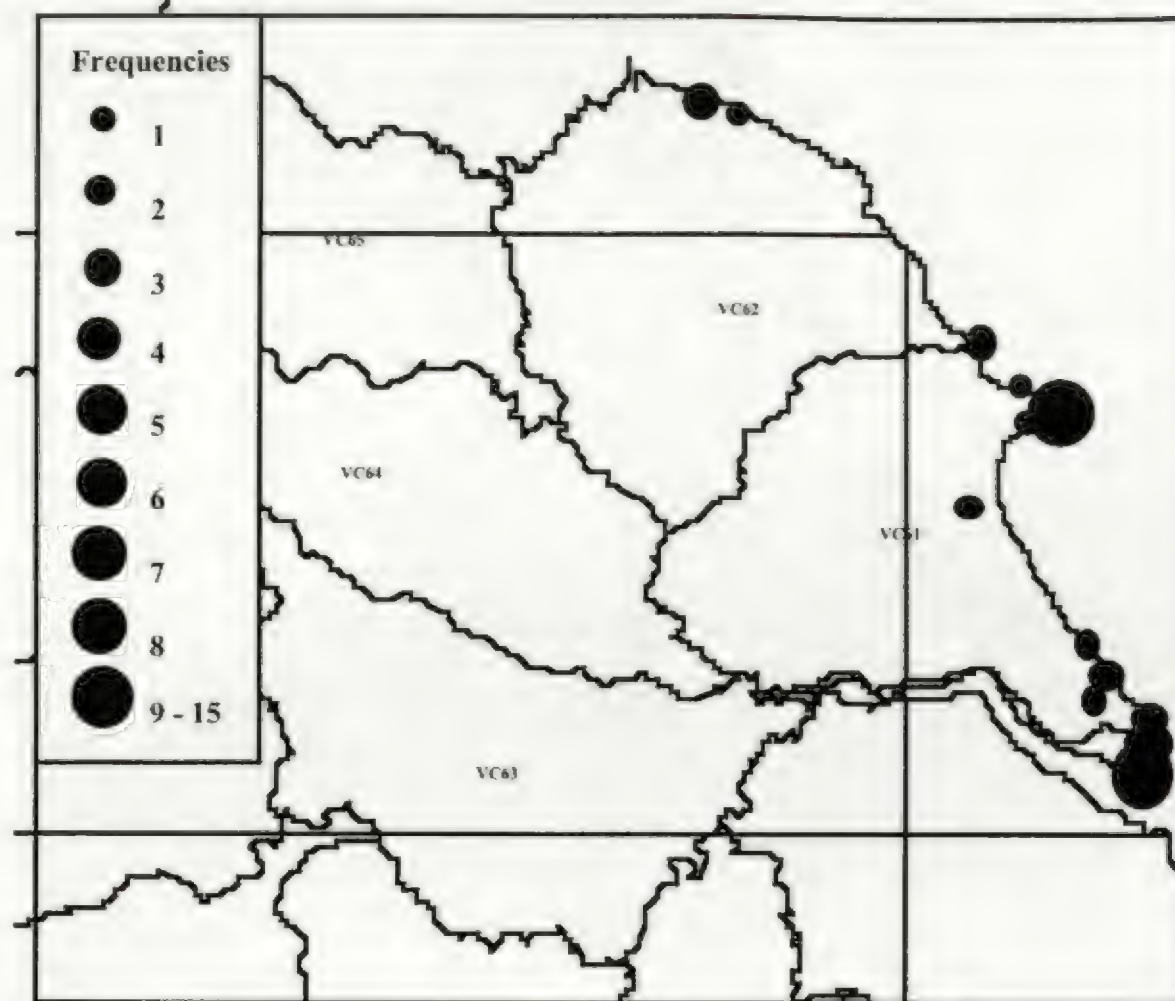


RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

Scarce passage migrant

1999: A male at Spurn on 19th May was the only spring report in a year with only a quarter of the previous year's total number of records. Adult males were present from 7th to 12th August at Flamborough and 10th to 12th at Spurn. Juveniles were at Flamborough from 21st to 22nd and on 30th August, whilst one was reported from Hunt Cliff, Saltburn on 22nd. In September, a juvenile at East Newton from 19th to 30th was joined by a second from 23rd to 26th. Singles were at Beacon Lane Kilnsea from 19th to 25th; Spurn between 19th and 26th; Flamborough and Hummersea from 21st-22nd; Saltburn on 22nd; Filey on 24th and Flamborough on 30th. In October, a juvenile was seen briefly at Filey on 16th.

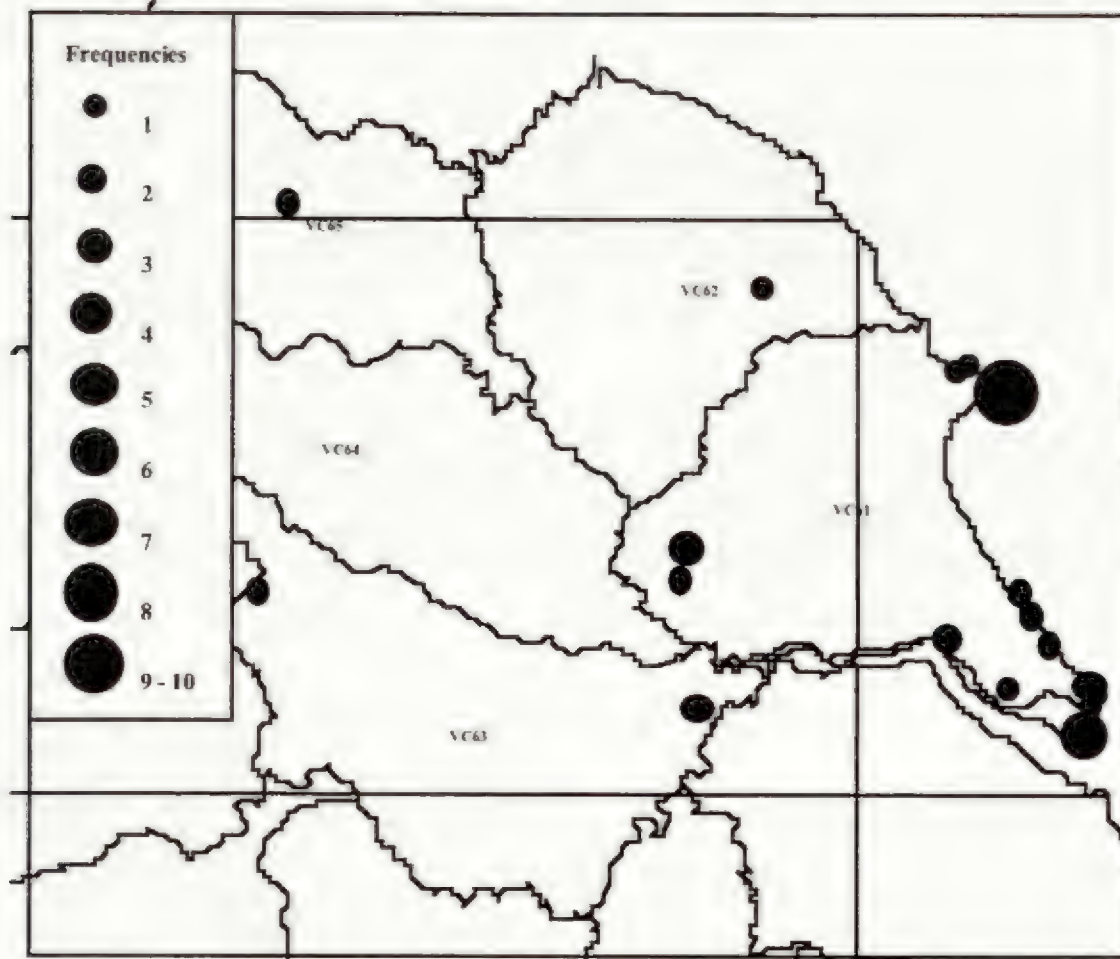
Red-backed Shrike 1998-1999

**GREAT GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius excubitor**Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor*

1999: Wintering birds included one on Thorne Moors at Inkle Moor on 1st January, and 2 or 3 reported from the Derwent Valley in January. A first-winter male was trapped in the Lower Derwent Valley at Hagg Bridge on 7th, having been seen to catch and eat a Goldfinch, while an unringed bird was seen at nearby Storwood on 16th. A single on North Duffield Carrs on 21st was also seen in Bubwith, appearing on Skipwith Common towards the month end, re-appearing at North Duffield on 1st March. Forestry workers reported one at Housedale Rigg on the North York Moors, the site of an over-wintering bird the previous year while one was at Cullingworth near Bradford on 7th February. April records included one at Walshaw Dene from 1st to 3rd, one at Arkendale from 6th to 9th, and one at Flamborough Head on 6th with another there on 3rd May.

The first autumn record came from Spurn on 15th October, with another there from 17th to 21st. Flamborough had further singles on 16th, 26th and 27th. One was at Thorne Moors on 23rd and one on Sunk Island on 27th. In November one was seen over the Ewden Valley on 3rd.

Great Grey Shrike 1998-1999

**WOODCHAT SHRIKE** *Lanius senator**Rare migrant, mainly in spring: 4 autumn records***1999:** One was at South Gare on 10th May (EGC: SJH *et al*).**ROSY STARLING** *Sturnus roseus**Rare vagrant***1999:** A juvenile was seen briefly feeding with starlings in a ploughed field near South Landing, Flamborough, on 18th October (AMA).**COMMON ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus**Scarce passage migrant: occasional very rare breeding species (first in 1992)***1999:** In June a singing adult male was at the Point at Spurn on 1st (LJD). Singing first-summer males were at Tophill Low NR from 10th to 23rd, with a second there from 13th to 16th (FXM *et al*). More records of singing birds came from the north of the county, involving showy "scarlet" males. The first was at Staithes on 21st June, followed by another singing in Runswick Bay on 21st-23rd June, and either this or another adult male singing in Ellerby on 24th June. 2 adult males were at Ellerby on 25th June, and adult males were in Runswick Bay and Ellerby on 26th, before the last sighting in Runswick Bay of an adult male on 27th.

A minimum of 4 birds seems to have been involved, but no females were observed. A first-summer male was singing near Lythe at Goldsborough on 12th July.

Singles were Whitestone Point, Whitby on 3rd September, at Flamborough Head on 4th September (BH), and another there on 17th October (PAL).

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*

Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn

1999: Single juveniles were at Spurn on 4th (MJP *et al*) and 12th September (DJB *et al*). An immature was at Flamborough Head on 18th October (DIMW), with 2 immatures there on 20th (PAL).

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*

Very scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn

1999: One was reported from Flamborough Head on 17th and 18th October (JGL: DIMW).

CATEGORY D SPECIES

Species whose status is being monitored the BOURC (see Ibis 136: 253)

SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug*

Rare visitor/escaped species

1998: An adult with no sign of jesses was seen hunting Fieldfares over the sea at Flamborough on 27th October and again at Danes Dyke on 28th, when it was attacking Rooks and Woodpigeons.

1999: One at Blacktoft Sands on 26th November.

LONG-TAILED ROSEFINCH *Uragus sibiricus*

Presumed escape

1999: One was at Spurn Point from 2nd-13th June (JT *et al*).

CATEGORY E SPECIES

Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations, if any, are thought not to be self-sustaining.

OSTRICH *Struthio camelus*

1998: An adult female at Old Denaby Ings from 14th to 16th March.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

The escapes of this species are treated in the main systematic list.

SACRED IBIS *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

1999: One reported flying south along the Derwent at Wheldrake on 11th May.

LESSER FLAMINGO *Phoeniconaias minor*

1998: An adult fed on the mud west of Brough Haven from 30th April to 16th September, thought to be the bird from Frodsham, Cheshire.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*

1998: Regularly seen on the Lower Derwent, with a pair at Buttercrambe, and one on floodwaters at Acaster Ings near York in the early months. A pair bred at Skirlington, north of Hornsea, raising 2 young, and one remained on Castle Howard Lake all year. A pair was also to be found on Wetwang pond. One flew over Coatham Marsh on 27th May. Seen in November at Ellerton and Southfield Res and at Hornsea Mere on 6th and Southfield Res again on 7th and 31st December.

1999: One at Southfield Res on several dates in January. 2 were at Idle Stoop on 25th/27th March/2nd April. One flew north at Cromer Point on 3rd May, 2 were at Old Moor Wetlands on 7th and 8th May, and a single was at Manvers Lake on 10th June. A pair

stayed from 11th May to 7th June at Potteric Carr. One flew north at Filey on 17th July. One was at Potteric Carr from 10th-22nd October.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

1998: One at Wheldrake throughout. A single at Wykeham Lakes on 9th-10th August, with 2 there on 24th September.

1999: Reported from Old Denaby on 20th February, and one was at Newington on 27th March. Also recorded at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

1998: One seen regularly at Wheldrake in January and February, with singles at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough on 8th February, at Southfield Res on 18th March and at Hayfield Lake, Doncaster District, on 16th April. 5 were at Swinsty Res on 14th May, one at Yeadon Tarn two days later, 2 at Scaling dam on 9th June and 5 at Hornsea Mere on 14th June. One was at Wykeham Lakes on 25th and 29th September, one returned to LDNNR on 27th September remaining to the year-end, with singles at TLNR on 29th September and at PHENR on 6th and 12th December.

1999: In April, singles were at Potteric Carr on 6th, Thrybergh CP on 10th/13th and at Broomhill Flash on 20th. 2 were at Southfield Res on 2nd and singles were at Almholme on 15th, Warland on 19th and Netherwood on 31st May. In June, 6 were at Filey Dams on 16th, one at Wheldrake from 25th to the end of the month, and up to 2 at Swinsty Res from mid-June to late November. One was at Fairburn Ings from 13th November to 31st December, with one at Beal Carrs on 15th December and 2 at Fairburn on 28th December. A hybrid Canada Goose x Bar-headed Goose was present at Winterset.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

1998: 2 present at Fairburn to 5th July and 3 from 10th July to the end of the year. No doubt under-reported.

1999: 3 at Fairburn to 26th April and 2 thereafter to the year-end.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Lesser Canada Goose

1998: One was at Thornton Steward Res, Bedale during January and early February. A bird of one of the small, dark races *S.c. minima* was seen at Winterset CP from 20th December into 1999. A paper by Graham Speight about this bird and its dubious origins can be found in *Yorkshire Birding* Vol. 7 No. 4 pp. 128-129.

1999: The Winterset bird remained until 6th February. One thought to be *S.c. minima* was at Wheldrake on 18th September.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

1999: Not surprisingly under-recorded as it is so patently feral, but present on many urban park lakes and some village ponds, and it is included in WeBS reports. One in Myrtle Park on 12th January and 8th February, and another at Marston NR on 6th September.

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys*

1998: Two were at Thrybergh CP on 17th August.

1999: One was at Dowley Gap SW on 21st September.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

1999: A female at Fairburn Ings from 4th to 9th April. One (sex unknown) at Esholt SW on 12th June, a drake at Pugney's CP in early December and 3 at Denaby Ings later in December.

MANED DUCK *Chenoneta jubata*

1998: One was at Wykeham Lakes on 25th-26th March and another at Elland GP on 12th December.

1999: One was on the Shipley Canal on 11th March, and a female at Tong Park Res on 12th May and 5th July, and at nearby Marstons NR on 19th July.

CHILOE WIGEON *Anas sibilatrix*

1998: One was in the Jackson's Bay area, Scarborough on 22nd and 24th March.

1999: 1-3 visited Manvers Lake, Broomhill between August and mid-November at least.

SPECKLED TEAL *Anas flavirostris*

1998: A drake was at PHENR on 6th and 24th September.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL *Anas bahamensis*

1998: A female at Potteric Carr from 11th January to 5th May, then 3rd October and 21st December. One at Bentley Tilts on 10th October.

1999: The female was again at Potteric Carr between January and May. One at Spurn on 18th April and one at Manvers Lake, Broomhill, in August and September, visiting Old Moor Wetlands on 7th September.

SILVER TEAL *Anas versicolor*

1999: One was at Newington on 18th April

HARRIS' HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*

1998: A local escapee at East Cottingwith on 24th January, and one at Barden on 6th, 7th and 21st February and 13th March.

1999: One near Broomhill Ings from 7th-15th April. Another (or the same) was seen on several dates at the end of June at Thrybergh CP.

RED-TAILED HAWK *Buteo jamaicensis*

1998: One flew south, then north at Spurn on 21st March.

1999: One repeated the previous year's performance at Spurn on 13th April. One with jesses flew north-west over Selby on 18th April, perhaps the same bird with jesses that was at Potteric Carr on 16th May showing characters of this species. One was at Cusworth on 15th November and one appeared around the Don gorge at Sprotbrough on a number of occasions during the year.

LANNER FALCON *Falco biarmicus*

1999: One at Barnside Moor on 24th July, and a juvenile at Boynton near Bridlington on 16th October.

CHUKAR *Alectoris chukar*

1999: 3 records in July in the Scammonden Valley, with 2 on 3rd and singles on 13th and 18th

SILVER PHEASANT *Lophura nycthemera*

1998: An adult male near Scabba Wood, Doncaster District, on 12th April.

1999: One at Steeton on 22nd August.

REEVE'S PHEASANT *Syrnaticus reevesii*

1999: A male at Skelton Castle on 8th April.

SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO *Cacatua galerita*

1999: One on the Nostell estate on 2nd September.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus*

1998: Singles at South Gare on 2nd May and over Filey on 27th May, 2 at Warmsworth in early summer, and singles over Thorne on 16th August, Almholme on 31st October and Penistone Hill on 31st December.

1999: One over Otley GP on 24th May, one over Potteric Carr on 7th September, one at Long Nab on 14th September, one on 3 dates in September at Thrybergh CP, one at Skelton Castle from 21st September to 1st October and one at Winterset on 12th October. Presumably more than one active individual!

CRIMSON ROSELLA *Platycercus elegans*

1999: One at Broadley on 9th November and presumably the same bird at Ovenden Wood on 22nd December.

EASTERN ROSELLA *Platycercus eximus*

1999: A male was found dead at Old Cantley on 9th January, and one was at Warmsworth from 3rd-5th June.

AFRICAN GREY PARROT *Psittacus erithacus*

1998: One seen regularly in Menston.

1999: One circled Wombwell lngs before landing in a tree at Darfield on 21st June. One at Sutton near Hull throughout the year.

PEACH-FACED LOVEBIRD *Agapornis roseicollis*

1998: One with Greenfinches at Axel Lane on 9th August. Four graced Filey from 18th-25th September.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula eupatria*

1998: One in the St. Chad's area of Middlesbrough from 1997 remained all year.

1999: One in the St. Chads area of Middlesbrough from 1998 remained all year.

EURASIAN EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo*

1998: A pair bred in the county. In addition, 2 birds were seen regularly at Oats Royd, Queensbury and another at a site in Wharfedale.

1999: A pair bred in the county. In addition, one was at Rawcliffe on 27th January, one with jesses was at Broadhead Clough on 21st April, one at Walshaw Dean on 14th May and one was heard calling at Thornton in the Derwent Valley in June. One reported on a number of occasions was still at Oats Royd, Queensbury on 4th August, and a second bird was seen regularly in the Beamsley area at the beginning of the year. One was caught by a falconer in Haw Park, Wakefield in August.

COMMON CANARY *Serinus canaria*

1998: One at Spurn on 16th July.

YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY *Serinus frontalis*

1999: One in a Guisborough garden from 4th-5th September.

RED-CHEEKED CORDON-BLEU *Uraeginthus bengalus*

1999: One at Upper Midhope on 16th August.

ZEBRA FINCH *Poephila guttata*

1998: One at Filey on 9th August and another on 4th September.

WHITE-RUMPED MUNIA *Lonchura striata*

1999: 3 found and captured on Canal road, Bradford were retained by the captor and raised 6 young!

BLACK-HEADED (VILLAGE) WEAVER *Ploceus cucullatus*

1999: One in a Beverley garden in mid-December.

GLOSSY STARLING *Lamprotomis sp.*

1998: One at North Ferriby on 11th and Sunk Island on 13th and 15th September.

PIED CROW *Corvus albus*

1999: One that had escaped in Derbyshire was seen at Flamborough on 8th May, then Skipsea on 9th, Spurn on 10th, then Filey on 12th and Danes Dyke, Flamborough on 15th May.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

The following observers have contributed records to this report, with apologies for any omissions. They have either submitted records directly, or their initials appear in a local report for the species included in the systematic list. The Editors thank all that have submitted records.

N W Addey	P K Bowman	L J Degnan	A E Hague
A M Allport	K Boyer	M C Dennis	J S Hague
R H Appleby	D P Boyle	A Devine	G Haigh
A Archer	C Brewster	A B Devitt	J Hamilton [JHa]
P Ashton	D B Britten	A S Disley	A Hancock
M Askew	D J Britton	G E Dobbs	R E Harbird
M R K Askew	R Brown [RBr]	P Dove	J T Harriman
A Atkinson [AAAt]	H O Bunce	M Doveston	J Harwood
J Atkin	P Burke	J B Dunnett	D Heagney
J E Atkinson	J Buxton	K A Dutton	E J Hediger
R Atterby	D Bywater [DBy]	R Eades	W J Hesketh
L Aukland	P J Carlton	B Emson	J Hewitt [JHe]
I Austin	G Carr	D Elwick	S Hey
D J Bacon [DJBa]	D Carroll	S Exley	J Hickson [JHi]
R Baines	M J Carroll	S Farish	P J Hinley
D J Bamforth	N Carter	C Featherstone	S J Hinley
J S Barclay	E G Clark	G Featherstone	D G Hobson
L & M Bardwell	N A Chambers	G W Follows	E Holcock
D C Barker	G Chapman	A Ford	S T Holliday
J Barker	R E Chapman	A Forsyth	D Holmes [DHo]
T J Barker	L Charlton	I Forsyth	P I Holt
P Barratt [PBa]	T D Charlton	M Francis	W Honeywell
M Barnett	J C Clarkson	P Francis	P M Hopper
J M Bayldon	E Clubley	T Francis	R N Hopper
D Beaton	S Cochrane	H M Frost	T Hopper
J Beaton	A Cockcroft	R A Frost	J Horton [JHo]
B Beaumont	P Colley	L Gillard	A D Hull
J A Beaumont	K Colwood	I Glaves [IGl]	K S Hutchinson
D V Beeken	D Constantine	J Glendenning	D Hursthouse
A Beggs	[DCo]	J H Goddard	A A Hutt
N A Bell	J Cook	K R Gould	P V Irving
P D Bell	M Corner [MCo]	G Grainger	P W Izzard
N Bewley	M Coverdale	A J Gramauskas	M James
S M Bird	M & P Cunningham	D Gray	A F Johnson
C J Bishop	P Cunningham	P K Greaves	G Joynt
M A Blick	W F Curtis	S Green	S D Keighley
M Boast	A Dalton	M Greenland	A Kershaw
R Bolton [RBo]	P I Davison	A Grieve	D & H Kidman
A J Booth	A Dawson	M Grindle	W E Kitching
W I Boustead	N C Dawtrey	P R Griffin	K L Knight
D J Bowes	G Dayes	J Grist [JGr]	T Laeton

J C Lamplough	A Oates	N P Senior	B Vickers
J Lane	F Oates	P Senior	D M Waddington
P A Lassey	M T Orchard	J L Sharp	S Wadsworth
I H Leach	P Ottaway	B Sharrock	B P Wainwright
B Leflay	J Owen	B & M Sheard	D Walkins
P Leonard	D Page	P Short	D I M Wallace
M Limbert	E C Parker	R S Slack	I D Walker
G M Lindley	N Parker	C Slater	J Walsh [JWal]
V Lister	V Parslow	M A Smethurst	D J Ward
R Lyon	S Pashby	D M Smith	E Ward
S McElwee	P H Pearsall	M Smith	J Ward
J McLoughlin	J M Pearson	P Smith [PSm]	A Warmby
[JMc]	J & V Phillips	P J W Smith	J & S Warwick
D Mansell	N J Phillips	B K Smithson	J Wasse [JWa]
I Marshall	N Pickering [NPi]	G J Speight	M C Wells
R A Marshall	M J Pilsworth	B R Spence	S D Wellock
J I Martin	J Plant	D J Standing	E Wesson
J R Mather	D J Prest	S D Stansfield	A J Wheeldon
G N Megson	N A Preston	C R Stephenson	J Wheldon [JWh]
M G Metcalfe	W H Priestley	R Stevens	H J Whitehead
D R Middleton	R H Proctor	A J Stoye	N P Whitehouse
F X Moffatt	C S Ralston	M F Stoye	E Wignill
K Moir	J Regan	M G Stoye	S Wignill
D A Money	S C Renouf	P Sutcliffe	C Wilkinson
N J Morgan	B Richards	L N Sutton	D Williams
B&S Morland	J Richardson	R Swales	E Williams [EWi]
J & M Morley	T Richardson	J W Sykes	L Williams
P R Morris	G Rickers	J Taylor	P J Willoughby
Mrs J Morrison	A Roadhouse	G Taylor	C Winn
M Morrison	A Robertshaw ARo	M E Taylor	J Wint {JWi}
A Morrow	S J Roddis	R C Taylor	D Wood [DWo]
P L Mountain	S Roebuck	S A Taylor	D Woodmansey
P Munroe	S M Root	B Temple	S Worwood [SWo]
A Musgrove	J M Rowarth	C C Thomas	J Wozencroft [JWo]
M G Neal	P C Rowarth	P Tomlinson	A Zabukas
M Newsome	D A Rushforth	J L Topham	
P Newton	J Sanderson [JSa]	P T Treloar	
A Norris	J A Schofield	J M Turton	
J O'Malley	R Scott	G Vause	

LOCAL REPORTS

The following local society and club reports have been received, and those readers requiring more information those areas are advised to consult the relevant report.

Barnsley Area Bird Report 1998, 1999 (Barnsley & District Bird Study Group)
Bradford Ornithological Group Report 1998, 1999
Cleveland Bird Report 1998, 1999 (Teessmouth Bird Club)
Doncaster Bird Report 1998, 1999 (Doncaster & District Ornithological Society)
Filey Brigg Bird Report 1998, 1999 (Filey Brigg Ornithological Group)
Five Towns Report 1998, 1999 (Five Towns Bird Group)
Flamborough Bird Report 1998, 1999 (Flamborough Ornithological Group)
Harrogate and District Bird Report 1998, 1999 (Harrogate & District Naturalists' Society)
Hull Valley Report 1998 (Hull Valley Wildlife Group)
Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar/SPA Breeding Bird Report 1999
Ryedale Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Report 1999
Scarborough District Bird Report 1998, 1999 (Scalby Nabs Ornithological Group)
Birds in the Sheffield Area 1998 (Sheffield Bird Study Group)
The Birds of SK 58 (1998)
South Holderness Countryside Society (Newsletters)
Spurn Wildlife numbers 8 and 9: 1998, 1999 (Spurn Bird Observatory)
Whitby Bird Report 1998, 1999
York Ornithological Club Report 1998

Reports and lists were also received from:

Beacon Lane Ponds and Holderness Logs, Lower Derwent Valley monthly sheets and Thorne Moors.

DESCRIPTION REQUIREMENTS

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in the future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

British Birds Rarities

All national rarities must be described and accepted by **BBRC** to be included in the YNU report. We would prefer to receive the description first and will forward it immediately to BBRC. BBRC do request that all records be submitted through the County Recorder system. Failing this, we would at least expect to receive a copy. A list of species for which descriptions are required by *BBRC* for publication in their Annual Report on Rare Birds in Great Britain is available from *British Birds*.

County Rarities

Descriptions are required for the species listed below.

Cory's Shearwater	Pomarine Skua [inland records only]
Great Shearwater	Long-tailed Skua [inland records only]
Balearic Shearwater	Ring-billed Gull
British Storm-petrel (sight records)	Sabine's Gull
Leach's Storm-petrel	Roseate Tern
Little Egret	Black Guillemot
Purple Heron	European Bee-eater
Bean Goose (to race/species)	Greater Short-toed Lark
Ruddy Shelduck	Richard's Pipit
Green-winged Teal	Tawny Pipit
Ring-necked Duck	Cetti's Warbler
Surf Scoter	Aquatic Warbler
European Honey Buzzard	Marsh Warbler
White-tailed Eagle	Icterine Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Melodious Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Dartford Warbler
Golden Eagle	Pallas's Warbler
Spotted Crake	Yellow-browed Warbler [inland records only]
Corn Crake	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Common Crane	Eurasian Golden Oriole
Stone-curlew	Woodchat Shrike
Kentish Plover	Red-billed Chough
Temminck's Stint	European Serin
Pectoral Sandpiper	Common Rosefinch
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Girl Bunting
Red-necked Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting
Grey Phalarope	Little Bunting

White Stork (increasing escapee), Red Kite (introduction programme) and Wood Lark (breeding species) have been removed from the description list, and White-tailed Eagle has been added, as it is no longer considered by **BBRC**.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field before reference to any text books; the locality including 4-figure grid reference; date and time; habitat; weather conditions; optical aids used; distance from the bird; period of observation; species present for comparison, if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms for submitting details based upon those by the **BBRC** can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder or by e-mail from the editor

Races and other unusual occurrences

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of commoner species, (e.g. Siberian Chiffchaff, Grey-headed Wagtail, Caspian Gull) or to support records of migrant birds out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.



Rare Breeding Birds in Yorkshire

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder; Report Editor or direct to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, if the observer so wishes. The system used by the Panel for indicating geographical locations is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of 'England North'. In some instances the county will be named but should the observer request the omission of 'Yorkshire' the Panel will respect this with only the region being named. A full list of the species considered by the Panel appeared in *British Birds* 81: 102 - 103. Species that are known to have bred, or attempted to have done so in recent years, in Yorkshire, are listed below:

In addition, brief outline details of numbers of Schedule 1 species are requested [area, numbers and success].

Black-necked Grebe	Montagu's Harrier	Little Gull
Little Bittern	Northern Goshawk	Eurasian Golden Oriole
Northern Pintail	Eurasian Hobby	Bluethroat
Garganey	Common Quail	Black Redstart
Common Pochard	Spotted Crake	Fieldfare
European Honey-buzzard	Corn Crake	Parrot Crossbill
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	Black-tailed Godwit	Common Rosefinch

In addition, brief outline details of numbers of Schedule 1 species are requested [area, numbers and success].

Panel report forms are available from the Report Editor, Vice-County recorders or direct from the RBBP by post or from the RBBP's website.

Dr. M. A. Ogilvie, Secretary RBBP, Glencairn, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay, PA49 7UN. E-mail RBBP@indaal.demon.co.uk

Website: <http://www.indaal.demon.co.uk/rbbp.html>

Artwork and Photographs

The Editor would welcome any photographs or line drawings of species for inclusion in the 2000 and 2001 reports. The post of Art and/or Photographic Editor is available for a willing volunteer.

NOTES

NOTES

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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